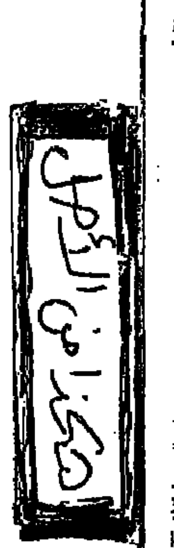


The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

Hamburg, 9 November 1972
Eleventh Year - No. 552 - By air

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Peace in Vietnam just round the corner

Lübecker Nachrichten

Vietnam – the longest war of modern history is drawing to a close. A cease-fire is on the way and this, it is hoped, will lead to a peaceful realignment of Indo-China, due since the end of World War II.

More than in Central Europe philosophical and political differences of opinions have emerged in South-East Asia that threw up seemingly insurmountable barriers. For this reason there is still great scepticism about whether the cease-fire will lead to an actual peace situation, but at least the chances are there.

It was President Nixon who paved the way for a cessation of hostilities after all the attempts of his predecessor Lyndon B. Johnson had failed. The heart of the matter is recognition of the fact that it is impossible in the long run to keep a democratic regime alive with the artificial respiration of force and arms.

America offered its allies in South Vietnam the largest arsenal of weapons in the history of the world. The tonnage of bombs dropped on the north was many times that of the whole Second World War bombing. North Vietnam was pockmarked with bomb craters. The Americans admitted that they intended to bomb the soul out of the bodies of the North Vietnamese. But this barbaric concept resolved nothing.

For at least a year the only point of American bombing raids has been to save the prestige of the United States. For their part the North Vietnamese were not afraid to improve their bargaining position by a series of almost suicidal offensives.

This war of attrition was the background to the public and secret contacts between diplomats of both sides in Paris and in other locations and the sum total of its effects has been to increase the repulsion for a Realpolitik demonstrated in such a manner.

Now it may suit the purposes of the North Vietnamese and their allies if the air of relief about the possibilities for peace covers up worries about the American withdrawal from Indo-China.

President Nixon has obviously come to realise that he cannot impose his will on a nation that has been fighting without a break for 25 years – the North Vietnamese.

The terms of the ceasefire agreement outline the bitter decision of the Americans to drop their allies in Saigon. Nixon knows as well as President Thieu that reunification of the divided country could only come about under the aegis of bellicose Nationalist-Communism à la Hanoi.

As long ago as 1954 the then American Foreign Secretary John Foster Dulles put a stop to proposed "free elections" in Vietnam as a whole so that the strategically important peninsular would not be surrendered to the Communists.

It has taken eighteen years for the Americans to come to the conclusion that this must come to pass – and what a price has been paid for the eighteen-year delay!

But the Soviet Union should not view this as a cause for triumph. In Central Europe the positions are exactly reversed.

Bernd Brügge

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 27 October 1972)

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn-Sofia diplomatic exchange imminent

Bulgaria expects that normal diplomatic relations will be set up between Bonn and Sofia before the year is out, according to the head of the Bulgarian trade mission in Frankfurt Penko M. Penkov. The basic treaty settling differences between the GDR and this country is not regarded as a prerequisite for normal relations with Sofia, but a successful conclusion of the Inter German negotiations would certainly clear the air. Bulgaria is very keen to boost trade and economic cooperation with the Federal Republic.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 October 1972)



During Federal President Gustav Heinemann's State Visit to Britain Queen Elizabeth II bestowed on him the Order of the Bath, an order of chivalry that was founded in 1399. After the President was given the honour the British Queen escorted her guest from Westminster Abbey. (Photo: dpa)

Queen Elizabeth II entertains President Heinemann

Gustav Heinemann, the Federal Republic President, was given a most cordial welcome in Britain on the occasion of his State visit. This, and in particular the speech made by Queen Elizabeth at a banquet at Windsor Castle on 24 October for the President, showed quite clearly that the time had indeed been right for the President to visit the British Isles.

The British monarch's speech did not even touch on past differences between Britain and Germany, but concentrated on the good Anglo-Federal relationships obtaining at present and the possibilities for mutual cordiality in the future. Dr Heinemann echoed her call for greater cooperation.

The climate for Heinemann's visit was excellent. The atmosphere was vastly different from that on 20-23 October 1958 – fourteen years ago almost to the day – when the late President Theodor Heuss paid an official visit to Britain.

Although Britain and the Federal Republic were closely linked militarily then in the Nato Alliance the reception for President Heuss was chilly. When he visited Britain there were still vestiges of mistrust. The war wounds had not healed sufficiently.

Today the scars have faded almost completely. President Heinemann is visiting a country that has just renounced isolation stretching back centuries, a country that will become an integral part of free Europe.

Even though entry to the EEC is still a bone of contention in Britain it has been widely recognised that Britain needs Europe and Europe needs Britain. And it has not been forgotten that this country championed Britain's entry to Europe.

Bodo Schulte

(Nordwest Zeitung, 25 October 1972)

Arab terrorists hijack Lufthansa plane

Once again Arab terrorists have shown that they can do as they please and that only a concerted international boycott can put a spoke in the wheel of the Middle Eastern pirates.

But the signs are that once again this boycott will not be forthcoming. It was to be expected that the bloody card the Arab terrorists picked up in Munich would be used as an evil trump against the Federal Republic. And this country was forced into a position where it had to lay aside normal legal requirements and hand over the three survivors from the Fürstenbruck massacre. Voices in Israel will surely not have a friendly word to say for this country.

Bonn's attempt to cool the situation by slackening entry regulations and lobbying in Cairo has been answered by a scornful laugh from the Fedayin. Having secured the release of the three terrorists on the evening of 29 October the pirates did not even "pay the bill" immediately.

What is to be done? And what precautions can be taken by the airlines themselves when they fly to airports in Arab countries without guarantees that strict measures will be implemented at the airports to control just who is boarding their planes?

Lufthansa, which has been hit by air piracy for the second time will have to answer a number of questions along these lines.

But one subject of debate in recent weeks has now surely been resolved in the clearest possible way. Critics cannot possibly dispute that there is at present not the slightest reason for controls on Arab passengers at arrival and departure points to be slackened.

Those who feel that such measures are an imposition on them will have to lodge their complaints with those of their brothers and outsiders who have shown once again that no evil action is too much for them and no deterrent can prevent them from carrying out their desperado tactics.

Ulf Busch

(Kieler Nachrichten, 30 October 1972)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Asia after President Nixon's visit to Peking

International politics have rarely been so radically changed and new vistas opened up by one single move – not a declaration of war but Nixon's comparatively harmless decision to fly to Peking.

It marked the beginning of the end to a totally sterile position of bipolarity where the two super-powers confronted each other and everybody else was forced to fit into this stereotype East-West pattern and opened up the prospect of a multipolar order with all that has to promise.

This process of change has a stabilising effect and ensures peace as the two super-powers can no longer concentrate hypnotically on their own conflict but have to make allowances for a third power – China – when airing their differences.

The question of whether China is already a major power or on the point of becoming one is irrelevant as each of the super-powers of the past fears that China could join the opposition camp. China thus assumes the position of a third great power.

It is true that Japan suffered a serious shock last year – both in the political and economic sector – but she has overcome it now. Japan was once tied to America's apron strings and as such her foreign policy was restricted.

But she has now gained far more room for manoeuvre. Moscow has made Tokyo a number of extremely good economic propositions and Tokyo in its turn has come to terms with China which is of extreme political and economic as well as historical and psychological importance for the Japanese.

A Sino-Japanese Trade Centre is about to be opened in Tokyo to coordinate trade with Peking. It is estimated that trade between the two countries will reach five milliard US dollars by 1977, rising further to eleven milliard dollars by 1982.

Prime Minister Tanaka is enjoying a wave of success since his recent appointment as head of government. It is quite possible that he will take advantage of the favourable situation and call a general election, even though the last one only took place in 1972.

The Japanese are happy that none of the diplomats despatched to South-East Asian governments to explain the new foreign policy returned with reports of people attacking them for abandoning Taiwan.

All these States understood that the force of events left Japan no other choice. In view of this the Japanese should really be grateful to the Americans for forcing them to commit such an act of "betrayal". If they had acted on their own initiative nobody would have been so indulgent with them.

Tokyo's close relations with Washington will no doubt continue – China poses no obstacle here. Japan will welcome this for both economic and security reasons. As far as an outsider can fathom Peking's motives, it can evidently be said that China has no objection to the American presence in Japan for the time being.

As far as South-East Asia is concerned, I can only say from my own observations that politicians there have become resigned to an American withdrawal since the proclamation of the Nixon doctrine in the autumn of 1969.

Some are even looking forward to the day. Thailand's Foreign Minister told me in the spring of 1971: "It is time for the Americans to go home – we managed without them for centuries and they are only making our reconciliation with China more difficult."

These States – Thailand, Burma, Korea and even Nepal – paid tribute to China, in some cases for centuries, before the colonial powers ever came there from Europe.

A mission bearing tribute was usually sent to Peking every ten years to show that the hegemony of the Chinese Empire was still recognised. Apart from that no demands were placed on them. A number of these countries now aim for neutral status.

Under Malaysia's lead – Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak recently broached his idea in Moscow – the ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines) plan to get the three major powers to guarantee their neutrality.

They speculate that when each of the major powers has the assurance that neither of the other two will obtain special influence or even military bases in the area this state of affairs will seem more acceptable to the three rivals than establishing their own presence in the certain knowledge that it will always be challenged.

Somebody had to foot the bill of course and that was Taiwan. Taiwan has fallen from its make-believe position as a major Asian power with a seat on the Security Council and been forced on to the periphery of world history.

All those involved in this overthrow seem to console themselves by pointing out that it is well outweighed by the advantages of the new system of international balance.

They are still incapable of picturing the island's future destiny. Tokyo wants to organise its relations with Taipeh in such as way as to preserve the economic and cultural ties as far as possible. The two embassies are still open despite the breaking-off of relations.

Looking at the shape of the new international set-up in Asia after the end of the Vietnam War – though not according to the black and white scheme prevalent during the Cold War – it must be admitted that this region of the world will be able to welcome the prospect of peace.

This could only be thwarted if the Soviet Union were to try to gain influence in Burma or South-East Asia as part of a policy of encirclement towards China.

It would immediately prompt China to mobilise her minorities living there and the many rebellious tribes scattered along a broad belt of land running from Assam in North-East India, through Burma, Thailand and Laos to the Yunnan border. This would not prove difficult as the training centres for all subversive movements in South-East Asia are to be found in Yunnan.

The Russians on the other hand find it difficult to gain a footing in these areas. Asian nationalism is growing and the Russians have the disadvantage of being both white and rich. It is hard to imagine that they would be so stupid as to engage in such a trial of strength.

Russia, China, America and Japan – the four great powers with an influence on Asia's destiny – know only too well that nowhere else in the world has intervention proved so painful and the reaction to it so emotional as here. Their attitude suggests that a balance of power would be preferable to the precarious formation of blocs.

Marion Gräfin Dönhoff

(Die Zeit, 27 October 1972)

USSR moves to cut American MIRV lead

Frankfurter Rundschau

Little in the world in politics can withstand change – but this is not true of the United Nations Charter. It has become commonplace to claim that the Charter, dating from 1945, has not kept pace with developments. But taking the necessary consequences would mean encroaching upon the basic interests of the major powers who would do all they could to prevent change by invoking the privileges they are guaranteed by the Charter.

Even small details that could soon be rectified are still found in the Charter. Germany (as if it were still one State), Italy and Japan (who have long been members) are still described as "enemy States".

The unyielding UN potentates claim that one change might open the floodgates to further changes. But these changes are necessary. The importance of Third World nations has risen so much since the United Nations was founded that a number of them – India for example and one or two African countries – deserve more political latitude than small States like Mauritius.

Fifth major power

Japan is on the way to becoming the fifth major power in international politics. Europe will be a different force in ten years' time to what it is now. Other countries will not be able to claim that it has adequate representation on the most important committees in the shape of two former great powers – France and Britain.

Now proposals are arriving on Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim's desk every day. Madagascar wishes to restrict the veto rights of the five permanent members of the Security Council, China wants to redraft the whole of the Charter and Brazil wants work on this to start immediately.

The trend is obvious. If the organisation faces up to the challenge and adapts itself to the changes in the international situation, it can get up-to-date. If it fails in this venture, the only thing to increase will be its powerlessness.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 October 1972)

UN must adapt to the changing world

Attack was the main concern when nations first started arming themselves with nuclear missiles. These intercontinental missiles, linked with the temptation and the potential to make the first strike, soon led to the establishment of missile defence systems.

To counter these anti-missile missiles, better offensive missiles were developed in the following stages of the senseless arms race. Missiles were built with a number of warheads (MRV's) and these were refined until the warheads could be guided to their target independently of each other (MIRV's).

Moscow and Washington made an attempt to put the brake on missile armament during the SALT talks but they have given full rein to the MIRV arms race, confirming that it is not the number of missiles that is important in the nuclear balance of fear but the number of warheads.

Those people who did not understand this shift of emphasis in nuclear armaments could have been disturbed by the outcome of the SALT talks as it seemed that the United States had surrendered its traditional superiority over the Soviet Union in this sector. But Washington has in fact maintained its lead thanks to its MIRV technology.

The two hundred Minuteman 3 missiles, each with three warheads, and the 160 or so Poseidon missiles with their ten warheads are sufficient to guarantee American superiority.

When the Polaris A 3 missiles with their simpler MRV technology are taken into consideration, the smaller American offensive missile force has almost 4,300 warheads for some 3,500 targets. The Soviet Union, with its SS-9 and SS-11 inter-continental missiles and their standard three warheads, can "only" threaten two thousand targets.

If the two sides' strategic bombing force is also considered, the United States has a clear lead with 5,580 targets to the Soviet Union's 2,510.

The United States is also superior where the scope of their missile-carrying submarines and the range of these missiles are concerned. Washington can always manoeuvre sixty per cent of its submarine missile force into firing positions, Moscow only forty per cent.

In figures, this means that the United States can fly 3,150 warheads to 2,710 targets from its submarines alone. Its potential enemy has to make do with 1,750 warheads.

If the Pentagon takes advantage of the options included in the SALT agreement and continues to modernise its force the number of American warheads will shoot up to over 5,600. The Soviet Union will remain under the two thousand mark as it does not possess MIRV know-how.

The Soviet Union would still be able to carry out fatal counterstrikes but Moscow evidently does not relish American superiority in the MIRV sector and is pressing ahead with its own missile tests.

The latest trials in the Central Pacific shows that the Americans still maintain a clear lead in missile technology but since the last series of Russian tests this summer Washington estimates that Moscow will be capable of developing MIRV missiles of its own in about twelve months. This will lead to fresh instability and more work for SALT.

Christian Potyka

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 October 1972)

The German Tribune

Publisher: Friedrich Reinecke. Managing Editor: Otto Heinz. Editor: Alexander Anthony. English language sub-editor: Geoffrey Penny. – Distribution Manager: Georgine von Platen. Advertising Manager: Peter Boeckmann.

Friedrich Reinecke Verlag GmbH, 23 Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 76. Tel.: 2 28 51. Telex: 02 14733. Bonn bureau: Konrad Kadlubowski, 56 Adenauerallee, 53 Bonn. Tel.: 22 61 53. Telex: 08 86398.

Advertising rates list No. 10 – Annual subscription DM 25.

Printed by Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei, Hamburg-Blankenese. Distributed in the USA by: MASS MAILINGS, Inc. 540 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprint are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged nor editorially redrafted. THE GERMAN TRIBUNE also publishes a Quarterly Review and a Supplement, articles selected from German periodicals.

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■ THE 1972 CAMPAIGN

FDP spells out its political ideas at Freiburg conference



Walter Scheel's point-blank announcement on the opening day of the FDP party-political conference in Freiburg im Breisgau that there was no question of the Free Democrats' entering into a coalition with the CDU/CSU even if this grouping were presented with a majority in the Bundestag could not have surprised many people.

For the FDP to swap this particular horse in midstream would have been a clear case of political suicide. Even if Scheel had only admitted to the possibility the FDP would have been discredited. The FDP has no way back at the moment, and for this reason it is all the more important for them to draw up clear demarcation lines between themselves and the Social Democrats.

Taking up a stand of their own would not mean for the FDP giving a signal to the CDU/CSU that it is a "coalition come what may", but it would simply be an appeal to the electorate. The appeal would go to those voters who do not like the CDU/CSU and do not want the SPD, or vice versa. It is to these voters that the FDP wants to show a clearly defined profile and to inject into them a sense of the indispensability of the FDP in the next Bundestag.

Free Democrats know that only by instilling in the minds of many voters the idea that the major parties need a controlling factor to prevent their becoming complacent and to prevent a two-party system developing can they secure entry to the seventh Bundestag.

But to make a broad sector of the electorate aware they need the FDP is the party's greatest problem. For there is many a slip twixt the cup of recognition that a third force is needed and the lip – the polling booth. It is most difficult for the Free Democrats to offer the country something that is original and particular to themselves when the SPD and the CDU/CSU have seized on most of the tasty morsels.

Scheel's favourite posture as the little David who is able to keep the Goliath parties in check by brandishing his sling will not wash forever. It is becoming a museum piece. What the FDP must find is a gap in the market, a shortage of supply in the goods offered by the major parties. Only in this way can they secure the seven per cent they hope to receive on 19 November.

So, what are the liberals offering the electorate? What do they hope to achieve? What do they promise? Freiburg brought a few indications of what the FDP have to offer. But the party conference gave short measure because Minister of the Interior Hans-Dietrich Genscher was indisposed and had to cry off at the last moment.

He was due to paint the picture on the right flank of the FDP:

- Continuation of the policy of detente, but with firm adherence to the Western Alliance. Admission of both German States into the United Nations so that they will have a voice in the General Assembly.
- Preservation of peace by means of participation in all international get-togethers that aim to reduce friction. This includes more active, more carefully channelled development aid.
- Continuation of the reform programme begun at the commencement of the socialist-liberal coalition with the aim of giving John Citizen a bigger say in political decision-making.
- Continuation of the party's controlling function to check the advance of "socialist experimentation", the stand against the increasing influence of extremist groups, namely against the "permanent attempt of unions and employers to rule the life of the ordinary citizen according to their wishes and dictates", as one delegate in Freiburg put it. "Freeing the citizen from this tutelage," as Walter Scheel described it.
- A share for the average person in the proceeds of increased productivity.
- Reform of real estate laws.
- Improvements to the laws concerning monopolies.
- Emancipatory reforms but no experiments in overthrowing the present social system.
- Comprehensive education as a school for democracy and not for Socialism.
- An open educational system.
- Rejection of present Utopian ideals and concentration on doing what can be done, and must be done.
- State responsibility for the planning and financing of the educational system and the right to a say for all who are affected and involved.
- Agricultural pricing policies that ensure that viable farms develop and keep pace with general economic progress.
- Continuation of State aid for farmers until they have achieved equality of opportunity with other sectors of the economy.

This is certainly not a clear attitude towards the plans being nurtured by the EEC in Brussels to freeze prices for agricultural produce for a transitional period and recompense for farmers for loss of earnings by direct grants.

Even though the statements made by the FDP at their conference are to be seen in the light of their planned continued coalition with the SPD the declarations made in their programme are of such a kind that they would not of themselves preclude a coalition with the "union" parties.

This is not likely to come about in the immediate future. But clear signals were offered to the SPD at the Freiburg conference. The Free Democrats have made it quite clear that they will not tolerate the revolutionary schemes of the far left in a continued coalition. In addition to this it has become clear that the cleft between the "SPD orientation conference" of last December and practical government policies has been opened even wider.

Wolfgang Fechner

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 25 October 1972)



Hans Dietrich Genscher (left), Karl-Hermann Flach and Walter Scheel, leader of the FDP, at the Party's conference in Freiburg (Photo: J. H. Darchinger)

The FDP – the little party that made the big gamble

Under the leadership of Walter Scheel the Free Democrats are able to offer a picture of solidarity to which we were not accustomed in earlier days. The controversies raging for the best part of a century between national-liberals and progressives are a thing of the past.

When Scheel speaks of the "second duty of liberalism" and calls to mind the tradition of the great liberal Friedrich Naumann he is not only referring to the task of the liberals to free the individual from his dependence on economics and society. The declared aim is the bridging of the gap that has existed – with rare exceptions – virtually permanently throughout the past hundred years between Liberalism and Social Democracy in Germany.

The stocktaking the Free Democrats undertook in the days of the Grand Coalition when they were the miniature Opposition against the CDU/CSU and SPD giants was the initial impulse for the changes the FDP has been going through. These began in 1967 with the first discussions of a new German and East Bloc policy. There followed Erich Mende's dismissal from the party leadership in 1968 when he made way for Walter Scheel.

A year later the Free Democrat vote secured the Presidency for Gustav Heinemann and just a few months later the Free Democrats share of the electorate was sufffficient to help the SPD to take over in a coalition government – the first real change of power by peaceful and constitutional means in the history of this country.

Rarely has such a mini-party had such an effect on a nation's destiny. The FDP was able to swing this, since it renounced its policy of being the party that sits on the fence and entered into a programme of long-term liberal strategy. Courage was required to take this step, since sacrifices were inevitable.

National-liberal voters, party members and members of the Bundestag were shed along the way. In exchange the party gained a great deal in terms of solidarity. Critics predicted the party was going through its death throes. Today the FDP can hope that its resolution in the face of these critics has paid off.

There is no returning to that fence! The way ahead lies irrevocably with a continuation of the SPD/FDP coalition The voter is now being served a glass of wine that is clear, not cloudy. There is only one point on which a strange misunderstanding persists in the ranks of the FDP. Parliamentary party Chairman Wolfgang Mischnick said in Freiburg that no one of rational mind could possibly accept a two-party system. Reasonable people would be in favour of the Free Democrats as a third force, he said. But this conventional praise for a third force fails to convince, since the small party was performing a truly liberal political role when it paved the way for a two-group system in the Federal Republic (which strictly speaking consists of four parties). With the SPD the FDP counterbalances the CDU/CSU group. Three years have not been enough to consolidate this system of alternatives and so the FDP has without hesitation started that it wishes to continue the coalition with the Social Democrats.

FDP and CSU, Walter Scheel and Franz Josef Strauss have vital roles to play as the men who set the points in the system of coalition and union. Both are a corrective force, though in vastly different directions. Scheel is a corrective for the liberal centre against socialist experimentation – Strauss prevents excessive "opening up" of society internally and in foreign affairs.

The socialist-liberal alliance would seem far less convincing to the electorate if it were not for the mutual respect of men of the calibre of Brandt and Scheel. In Dortmund Willy Brandt stressed that in partnership the SPD and FDP had begun to tread the path of the political centre. Scheel's answer in Freiburg was to call for the continuation of this alliance, to continue the work begun in the past three years.

This setup allows the FDP to be more than an appendage of the Social Democrats. Brandt needs Scheel if he is to succeed with his self-appointed task of integrating the left wing of the party.

What Scheel means when he says the FDP does not want to throw the baby "individual freedom" out with the bathwater "social reforms" is obvious. On the one hand he feels it is necessary to apply the brakes, while on the other he wants to surge ahead. In the field of legal reform for instance.

However close the results of the 19 November election may be amalgamation with the "union" parties immediately after seems out of the question. The trauma of being dubbed "the traitor party" in 1961 is still fresh in liberal minds and no one has forgotten 1969 when the CDU/CSU hovered between courting the FDP with bombastic offers and telling them to get lost.

For the more distant future of the party one overriding factor is how far industrialists, or "the Economy" if you prefer, realise how much of a contribution to political (and hence economic) stability the FDP can make. The "second duty of liberalism" is clear enough.

Hans Schuster

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 October 1972)

■ INTER GERMAN RELATIONS

Egon Franke outlines terms of Transport Agreement

NRZ NEUE RUHR ZEITUNG

The Transport Agreement between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic has now come into effect, leading to many improvements in traffic between the two Germanies. Egon Franke, Minister for Intra-German Relations has outlined the ten most important points.

Citizens of the Federal Republic will be able to spend a total of thirty days a year visiting friends and relations in the GDR. The friends or relations must apply for the necessary permit and send it to their visitor. The visitor will produce this at one of the crossing points and be granted a visa.

In addition to this thirty-day quota visitors may travel to the GDR for commercial, cultural, sporting or religions reasons if invited by the appropriate authorities.

Charter tours will be available once an agreement between travel agents on either side has been reached. Here too the thirty-day limit will not be taken into consideration.

Motorists have only been allowed to take their cars into the GDR in the past if on business or visiting the Leipzig Fair. Motorists will now be allowed in if they are travelling with children up to three years old or if they are physically handicapped and only able to travel in their own car.

It is also expected that motorists will be able to take their cars in when visiting the country for commercial, cultural, sporting or religious reasons or when travelling on family business to a destination that cannot be reached easily or on time by using public transport.

The entry permit will be valid for the whole of the GDR instead of just the immediate area of the destination as used to be the practice. Germans living abroad can also receive permits from friends or relations in the GDR and obtain an entry visa at the border crossing points or a GDR diplomatic mission abroad.

The Lauenburg/Horst and Herleshausen/Wartha crossing points have also been linked up to the GDR network of transit routes. Motorists may now drive via Horst to Poland or Czechoslovakia and via Wartha to Scandinavia, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The existing regulations governing pensioners are also being improved. Pensioners from the GDR may now spend a total of thirty days in the Federal Republic every year instead of the single visit they were previously allowed.

Franke attaches great importance to the regulation allowing GDR citizens to leave the country on family business. This applies to all GDR citizens as well as pensioners who have exhausted their thirty-day limit. If the applicant is still at work he must obtain written permission from his superiors.

Permission to travel on family business applies to grandparents, parents, children and brothers and sisters in the GDR. Family business includes births, weddings, cases of serious illness and death and must be proved by official document or medical certificate. Exit is possible by private transport in urgent cases.

The GDR plans to issue a pamphlet giving details of rescue and towing services and outlining where minor repairs can be carried out immediately.

From 10 September onwards travellers have been allowed to take five hundred GDR Marks' worth of goods into the country duty-free instead of the previous limit of one hundred Marks' worth. On short trips travellers are allowed to take in one hundred Marks' worth a day.

The tobacco allowance has been raised from 50 to 250 grams — or 100 grams a day on short journeys. The coffee allowance is now 500 grams instead of 250 and travellers may now take one litre of spirits and two litres of wine. The ban on airtight-packed goods has also been lifted.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 18 October 1972)

Four-Powers unexpectedly arrive at inter-German talks

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The ambassadors of the four Allied countries surprised observers recently by coming to West Berlin for talks that were no doubt connected with the General Agreement being negotiated by State Secretary Egon Bahr of Bonn and GDR State Secretary Michael Kohl.

After their last round of negotiations in Bonn Bahr and Kohl stated they were confident an agreement could be reached but admitted that the most difficult questions were still to be settled.

One of these difficult points is how to phrase this inter-German agreement without challenging the continuing joint responsibility of the four Allies for Germany as a whole. The two German States were unable to reach an agreement on this question and the ambassadors have now turned to the subject.

The Four Powers today admit the existence of two German States. But they also have to ensure that the General Agreement will not contain any misunder standings on which one of the Four Allies or one of the German partners will capitalise.

The Kremlin evidently made a promise to this effect when State Secretary Bahr recently visited Moscow. The four ambassadors must now thrash out a Four Power declaration.

As long as no peace treaty has been signed, there must be a clear definition of the Allies' rights in the General Agreement. Bonn and the three Western Allies are united in their desire not to seal the partition of Germany and only make the present state of affairs "tolerable".

Robert Haerdter

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 23 October 1972)

GDR brides

State Secretary Egon Bahr of the Bonn Chancellor's Office stated recently that the GDR has permitted 25 persons to leave the country to join their fiances in the Federal Republic.

Bahr also spoke of the recent amnesty in the GDR which also affects citizens of the Federal Republic though he did not state the number involved. Persons sentenced in the GDR for "political and other reasons" are to be released from 1 November onwards.

Bahr pointed out that all Federal governments had in the past tried to secure the legal exit of GDR citizens wanting to marry in the Federal Republic. The government is still trying to reach a general agreement on this issue in the negotiations currently being conducted.

Bahr claims that 43 persons in the GDR are affected by the recent ruling as children had already been born in a number of cases. The permission to leave the country takes immediate effect.

Egon Franke, Minister for Inter-German Relations, told the Bundestag that 546 persons had already been allowed to leave theGDR this year to join their families in the Federal Republic.

(Hannoverische Allgemeine, 21 October 1972)

GDR self-firing guns

The GDR is extending its system of self-firing guns along its frontier with the Federal Republic. The first four sections 55 kilometres in length were set up by the end of 1971 and the Federal Border Guard now notes that installations of this type have been built for the first time in the north — between the Baltic and the River Elbe. The Ministry of the Interior has stated that a defector from a People's Army has confirmed these reports. (Photo: Die Welt)

New GDR law renounces claims on refugees

DIE WELT

As expected the East Berlin People's Chamber unanimously passed the Transport Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic at its session on 16 October.

During the same session it passed without debate a Law governing Questions of Citizenship, finally ending the GDR's "juridical aggression" on one important point.

Paragraph One of the law states: "(1) Citizens of the GDR who left the GDR under violation of the laws of the Workers' and Peasants' State before 1 January 1972 and have not taken up residence again in the GDR lose their citizenship of the GDR with the coming into force of this law. (2) Descendants of the persons covered by clause one lose their citizenship of the GDR with the coming into force of this law if they reside outside the GDR without the permission of the authorities of the GDR."

While on this subject, it may be of interest to look back to the GDR constitution of 7 October 1949. Article One stated: "There is only one German nationality."

Though this clause has never been amended, the GDR passed a law five and a half years ago on February 1967 claiming that there was a specific GDR citizenship, a term that was later included in the second GDR constitution of April 1968.

The GDR Citizenship Law claimed that all German nationals permanently residing in the GDR on 7 October 1949 – the day of the establishment of the GDR – were citizens of the GDR.

As the State is always involved in cases where people lose their citizenship – the State itself must take the final decision – the GDR claimed that all persons leaving its territory after 7 October 1947 were its citizens.

Some three million people were affected by this ruling. These persons' descendants were also considered GDR citizens even though only one of their parents may have possessed GDR citizenship.

The law passed by the People's Chamber on 16 October 1972 states that all GDR citizens who fled before 1 January 1972 and have not since returned will lose their GDR citizenship.

The GDR has therefore renounced its claims on inhabitants of the Federal Republic. Under the Federal Republic's Basic Law they are considered German citizens. As far as the GDR is concerned they are now foreigners.

The new law governing Questions of Citizenship also affects the regulations of the GDR penal code dealing with the "offence" of fleeing the Republic. Offences of this type will no longer be prosecuted.

A decree of the GDR State Council in August 1964 already stated that those persons who had fled before 13 August 1961 — the date the Berlin Wall was built — would not be prosecuted for this offence.

Many other penalties remain however. Paragraph 80 clause 3 of the GDR penal code for instance threatens citizens of other States and other persons with penalties if they commit what East Berlin describes as a crime against the sovereignty of the GDR, against peace, humanity or human rights.

Jens Hacker

(Die Welt, 18 October 1972)



■ SOCIAL WELFARE AFFAIRS

Trades unions campaign to halt exploitation of young workers



Five years ago I conducted some research on behalf of Norddeutscher Rundfunk into the question of labour regulations for the young. I did not look upon it as a controversial issue as I thought firms would adhere to the regulations of a law going back in part to the days of Kaiser Wilhelm.

One of the fundamental achievements of the labour movements was that child labour was banned and laws passed to stop the exploitation of young workers. The appropriate laws carefully regulate the working hours of the young, their breaks, holidays and type of work. They even turn their attention to the moral danger of employing teenage strippers.

The law also provides for trainees to be given medical examinations before starting courses of training and once again a year after starting.

Five years ago my research work revealed no grounds for complaint. This looks grotesque today when compared with the 1967 statistics published the following year. Some 46,000 offences were registered and the number of cases were increasing. In 1968 there were about 51,000 violations, in 1969 over 65,000 and in 1970 some 68,000.

The Hamburg authority responsible for inspecting whether firms were adhering to the law or did not believe that offences were intentional and gave factories a fair chance.

When it decided to inspect 1,170 small- and medium-size concerns last year the step was announced to the press well in advance. But it was still found that 920 firms — 75 per cent of those covered — were not observing the law.

The most thorough survey up to now was conducted by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Labour in 1971 and the results issued in July of that year. As many as 94 per cent of the young people working in the Federal state were covered by a questionnaire scheme and the results can be taken as representative for the rest of the Federal Republic.

The Ministry found that one trainee in three was not given a medical examination and that one young worker in two was made to exceed the number of working hours permissible.

Piecework for the young is banned by law but 13.6 per cent of the trainees in the forestry branch, 5.9 per cent in the handcrafts trade and 4.4 per cent of those in industry were forced to do this type of work.

The worst ~~excesses against the prescribed~~ working hours were found in agriculture, in the hotel and restaurant branch and at hairdressers.

Similar results were obtained in Hamburg. Hotels, restaurants and the handicrafts trade were the worst offenders. When the Hamburg branch of the restaurant workers union investigated the situation, they obtained some alarming information.

"We worked twelve hours or more nearly every day throughout the summer," one trainee in this branch wrote. "We were promised two free days during the winter in exchange but the manager has now reneged." The questionnaire scheme showed that this was not an isolated case.

Work on Sundays and holidays, overtime, nightwork and heavy manual labour cropped up time and again despite the fact that it is illegal for youngsters to do this sort of work.

When the Hamburg authorities inspected 41 hotels and restaurants in 1969 only eight were found to be operating strictly according to the law. It is not surprising that trainees also complain of punishment, even corporal punishment, though generally it takes more subtle form of lost benefits.

A large number of other investigations have come to the same conclusions. An investigation by the Cologne authorities in 1970 covered 54 hairdressers and found that all of them had violated the regulations governing the employment of the young in some way or another. The law does not seem worth the paper it is printed on.

The reasons are that it is hard to probe the concerns and that the long arm of the law is too short in this case and seems to be suffering from dystrophy. The Trades Union Confederation claims that only five hundred officials are available to deal specifically with offences against the youth employment laws. They have to cover 1.4 million concerns.

It is understandable that only five per cent of offences in 1968 came before court. But what sort of punishment was meted out? In a few cases employers were forced to pay a small fine, more serious penalties can be counted on the fingers of one hand and banning an employer from training young workers is so rare that it can be looked upon as a sensation.

New legislation is planned to protect young workers in 1973. One of the trade union's main demands is for a ban on employing the young for firms repeatedly violating the law. Minimum penalties are also demanded.

A trade union campaign is currently being conducted troughout the Federal Republic to support further claims. Trade unions demand twelve days off a year for further training, a second medical examination after two years of employment, an increase in the minimum amount of holidays to thirty days and a ban on any regulations taking the full force out of the law.

"We are achieving our rights," young trade unionists claim on their placards showing a boss with briefcase and bowler hat being dragged before a court that is held upright on the shoulder of two workers.

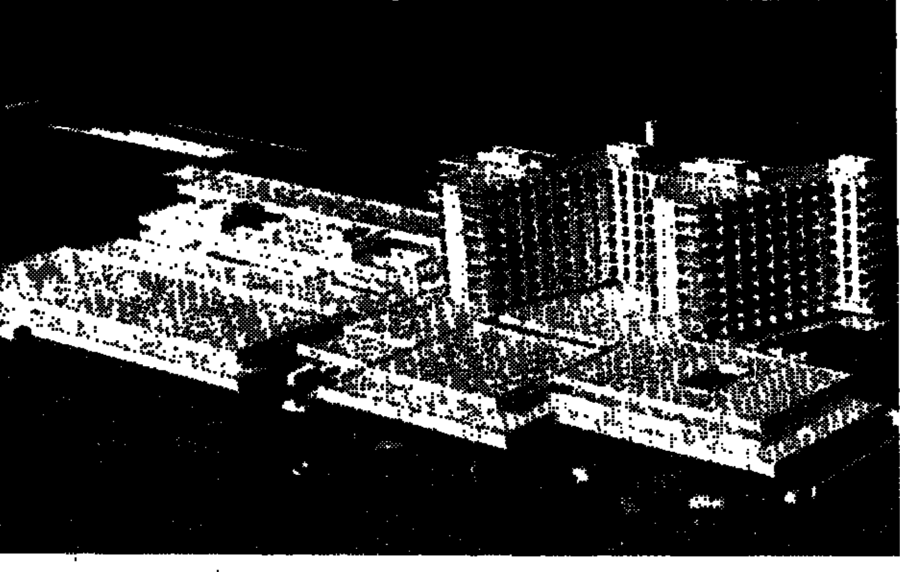
The enthusiasm with which trade unions' main demands is for a ban on however conceal one of the basic dilemmas. There is still too little solidarity between older workers and younger workers as far as the youth employmnet laws are concerned. Parents too are quick to point out that life was not made easy for them during their training or education.

Public indignation is not very great. When confronted by the term "protection of the young" most people think of the moral dangers inherent in too much leisure time and not of the physical hazard involved in too much strain at work.

The individual young worker is isolated and this does not increase his will to resist. The Trades Union Confederation is placing its hopes in the newly-elected young workers' representatives and the attention they may gain now that they have been granted a greater share in decision-making on works councils under the provisions of the new law governing industrial relations.

Ortwin Löwa

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 15 October 1972)



Training centre for the handicapped

Work recently started on the construction of a training centre for the handicapped in Bad Vilbel. When completed 420 handicapped people will be able to attend courses of training as mechanics, turners, inspectors or electricians. (Photo: dpa)

New measures to be introduced to aid the handicapped

More than four million persons depend on the help of the community because they are handicapped as a result of illness, war injuries, an accident or congenital complaints.

A standardised aid scheme will soon be introduced to help the handicapped become integrated into society and the working world if the Bundestag approve a Bill to this effect.

In future there will no longer be the tedious waiting periods that hinder rehabilitation and sometimes thwart its complete success. Rehabilitation will begin at the hospital bed and will gradually proceed until the handicapped person is integrated into society and the working world. Handicapped children with congenital complaints will find it considerably more easy to learn and practise a profession.

One particularly important feature of the proposed legislation is that the sickness insurance schemes will join those bodies that now finance the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Children and wives of persons covered by social insurance schemes will be able to claim the full contributions towards rehabilitating them. They have previously had to rely on social security.

Sickness insurance schemes have to cooperate with the handicapped person himself, with the doctors treating him and with other bodies involved to ensure that the rehabilitation measures are able to have their full effect.

The standardisation proposed by the Bill also extends to the payments made towards the costs of rehabilitation by sickness, accident and pensions insurance schemes, by war victims associations and the Federal Labour Institute.

The most important financial improvements for the handicapped are:

- Standardised payments for medical measures aiming at rehabilitation.
  a) Medical and dental treatment; drugs and surgical dressings.
  b) Remedial aids including gymnastics and physiotherapy.
  c) The provision of false limbs and other aids.
  d) Stress tests and occupational therapy.
- Standardised payments for measures designed to help the handicapped learn and practise a profession.
  a) Aid in retraining or obtaining a place of work.
  b) Career advice, trial posts and preparation for a new profession.
  c) Equipping the handicapped for a new profession, training, re-training and further training.
  d) Further aids towards helping the handicapped in the world of labour.
- Standardised payments to aid rehabilitation.
  a) Sickness insurance payments during periods of unemployment.
  b) Contributions towards social welfare insurance.
  c) Cover for costs directly connected with measures to aid the handicapped in learning and practising a profession (including training aids and professional equipment).
  d) Cover for the necessary travelling costs (including those for the handicapped person's family).
- Standardised sickness insurance payments (based on the last regular net salary).
- An annual reappraisal of payments to cover the rise in the cost of living (as occurs with pensions).

The Bill also lists a number of general principles to be observed in the rehabilitation process.

Wolfgang Büser

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 21 October 1972)

Labour bureau releases family allowance statistics

More than two and a half million Germans and foreigners in the Federal Republic and West Berlin draw family allowance for more than five and a half million children, a rise of 21.7 per cent in the number of parents entitled to these payments and of nine per cent in the number of children compared with last year's figure.

The Nuremberg-based Federal Labour Bureau calculates that 300,458 of these two and a half million are foreigners. In 1971 they received 510 million Marks for children living abroad, 130 million Marks more than in 1970.

The Turks from the largest national contingent with 145,000 parents drawing family allowance for 380,000 children. They are followed by the Yugoslavs and Italians.

As in the case of the local population, family allowance payments for a seventh or further child are extremely rare and only make up 1.6 per cent of the total.

But the 2.2 million locals drew family allowance for 4.7 million children — an average of 2.1 children — while the average figure for foreigners was 2.5 children.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 20 October 1972)

■ MARITIME AFFAIRS

Sudden boom catches ship-owners unawares

DIE ZEIT

Two years ago almost to the day shippers sent out distress signals to just about every important shipbuilding country in the world. A blooming, booming business in freight for world shipping lines had suddenly collapsed. Figures for freight carried sank in some cases to their lowest for fourteen years. It became unprofitable to run the older and slower freighters, and to cut their losses many shipping companies left them in dock.

The reasons for the slump were manifold. For one thing many developing countries enjoyed their best harvests for years and did not require large imports of grain. For another economies the world over were going through a period of ebb and the call for imports of raw materials was slight. Grain and raw materials are both cargoes that are mainly handled by tramp vessels — freighters that do not belong to a certain line and which put into any port where there is cargo for them to handle..

Now the depression has lifted. Suddenly there is in places hectic demand for seaborne freight and rates have gone up accordingly. In some cases they have reached levels that would have been considered preposterous until quite recently. Shippers and agents foresee an end to the low that hit shipping in November 1970. This applies particularly to time charter where the rates now chargeable are sufficient to cover costs.

Sales of grain to the East Bloc and transportation of timber from Scandinavia have had such a stimulating effect on shipping that at times it has been impossible to get all the freighters in port unloaded without difficulties arising. The Soviet Union in particular does not have adequate facilities at many of its ports to cope with a large number of ships. These delays have led to further increases in freight rates especially where coastal transportation is concerned.

The North Sea and Baltic are still feeling the after-effects of the British docks strike which meant that many ships with cargoes destined for Britain unloaded them in continental ports. These cargoes can now be shifted, but it is a long, slow process.

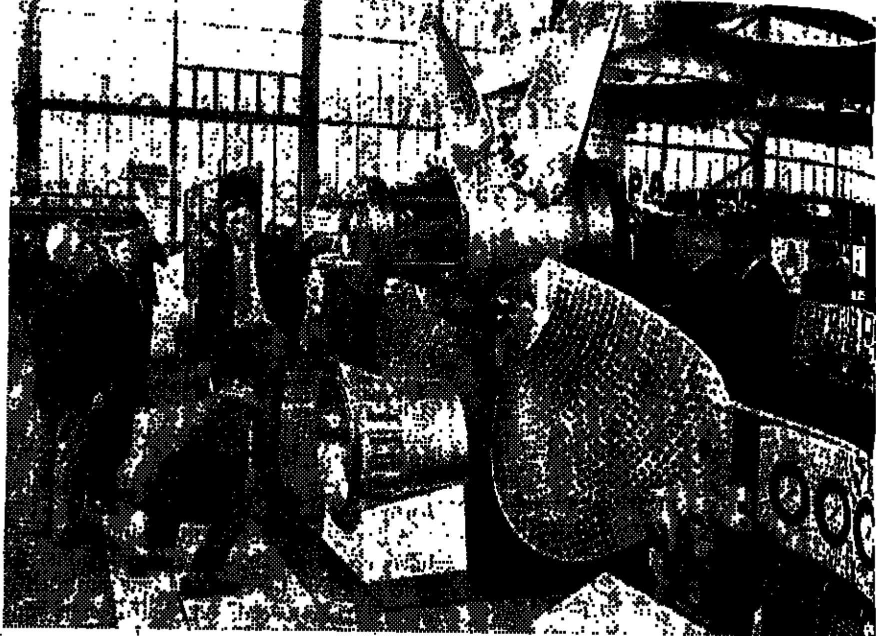
And freight charges climb up and up. One shipping company which chartered out a 40,000 tonner at $3.10 per ton from America to Rotterdam six weeks ago demands $5.75 for the same service today. On the America-Japan run the rate has gone up from $4.50 to $7.75. And a 50,000 tonner which shifted ore from Brazil to the Netherlands for $1.77 1/2 two months ago now costs $4.50.

Tanker charges have gone up, too! From the Persian Gulf to the West the charges have gone up from fifty to 95 or more Worldscale (the international unit for tanker charges).

Greater demand is also in evidence for liner traffic. But this is not affected so greatly by the ups and downs of the international freight shipping market. However, with tramp vessels becoming harder to get many shippers are having to resort to the more expensive liners.

The new boom has come at a time when the protracted cries of anguish of shippers were beginning to fall on fertile ground. The government in Bonn promised the shipping industry increased aid last September, and there were hopes that covering fire would be given by the European Commission especially against flag protectionism in South America and the aggressive shipping policy of the Japanese.

Hopes that the freight boom would take a weight off the mind of those involved in shipping in the Federal Republic proved to be premature. Shippers say that the boom is a long way from cancelling out the losses incurred in these two lean years.



The latest in ship's propellers (Photo: Conti-Press)

They also point out that only a small section of total Federal Republic tonnage is affected by the boom. Tramps and bulk goods vessels make up forty per cent of this country's shipping (exclusive of coastal vessels and fishing vessels) but according to estimates made by the Association of Federal Republic Shippers only about fifteen to twenty per cent of tramp tonnage is ready to take advantage of the upsurge. Bulk goods carriers, about half of the Federal Republic's total tramp tonnage, have been chartered out over a long term. So these vessels will only be able to grab their share of the boom when their present contracts have expired.

One sector that is jubilant about the shippers' jubilation is the union side, with the two major mariners' unions ÖTV and DAG. Shortly before the freight rates were upped shipping companies announced rates of pay off their own bat for the first time. A wage-scale association attached to the Shippers Association (Verband Deutscher Reeder) is to negotiate as low as possible, but not all shippers would be bound by these rates. However the unions have done everything in their power to obviate such a development at the new wage-scale negotiations.

Gerhard Gerdes of ÖTV said: "Shippers who are earning more can afford to pay more."

Horst-Wolfgang Brenke

(Die Zeit, 20 October 1972)

Bonn ups aid to shipyards to meet credit conditions

Bonn has decided to contribute a further 1,500 million Marks to the seventh shipyards aid programme This seventh programme has already notched up a volume of orders for the export of certain types of vessel worth in all 3,900 million Marks. The ships are to be delivered between 1973 and 1975.

The government placed 304 million Marks from the budget and 290 million Marks in European Recovery Programme credit (ERP) at the disposal of the shipyards. But the Cabinet has not yet decided on how to finance the 1,500 million Mark increase now promised.

Independent sources, for example the docks report of March 1972, recommended an increase of 2,100 million Marks. It is obviously with an eye to budgetary policy that the scheme placed before the Cabinet by Federal Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt has kept the figure below this sum.

The aid programme is designed to enable shipyards in this country to offer the internationally normal credit conditions when exporting. The most important ship exporting countries concluded an agreement in 1969 on conditions for credit. The revision of this dated 1 January 1971 provides for an eight-year repayment period for eighty per cent of the sum involved at 7.5 per cent interest per annum.

Since Federal Republic shipyards cannot meet these terms with money available through the normal credit channels, while other countries are able to meet them, the government has had to spring in with its programme of aid.

Bonn has been hoping that before October is out the treaty among the most important shipbuilding countries for the removal of all other aid schemes for shipbuilders will be signed in Paris at OECD level. This would mean, Bonn observers state, that by the autumn of 1975 all other manoeuvres to improve viability of shipyards on international markets would have been wound up.

Hopes of this kind seem to the Association of Federal Republic Shipbuilders to be "quite unfounded at present", however. In recent months the pressure of governmental moves to falsify the actual state of competitiveness has if anything been stepped up. A few months ago Britain introduced ten-per-cent building subsidies for vessels. Japanese shipbuilders have been given fiscal and credit benefits to cover to two-thirds their losses from the revaluation of the Yen. French shipbuilders are being supported by adjustments to equalise out the risks of price rises and by favourable exchange rate guarantees.

The Association says that it is becoming more difficult all the time for this country's shipbuilders to obtain orders on a shipbuilding market that is becoming tighter. In the first six months of 1972 this country's industry completed 73 ocean-going vessels totalling 552,600 GRT, but new orders amounted to only 26 ships with a total tonnage of a mere 44,400 GRT. In terms of cash the new orders are only worth a quarter of the ships so far delivered.

With orders having to be placed two or two and a half years before estimated delivery date because of planning and production requirements it is not possible in many cases to keep equipment in the shipyards running continually at full speed.

Bonn is also planning to secure more orders for this country's shipbuilders by means of increased aid to shipping companies. About eighty per cent of orders from Federal Republic shippers have gone to Federal Republic shipyards in recent years.

In 1970, one hundred and thirty-five million Marks was made available from ERP funds for ship orders in the years 1973 to 1975. Two-thirds of this money has already been dealt out. The Bonn Ministry of Transport is planning to agree to the offer of further ERP funds at the

Continued on page 7

Shipbuilders are mildly optimistic at Hamburg fair

KielerNachrichten

The world's largest exhibition of technical equipment for the world of shipbuilding has closed in Hamburg with reports of "good" or "very good" business from the 353 exhibitors from nineteen countries.

The exhibition *Schiff und Maschine International* was, according to its organisers "Hamburg Messe" a particular success for manufacturers of heavy manoeuvring equipment, shipboard electronic equipment and heavy on-deck machinery. They returned home with order books bulging.

Moreover a number of interesting major contracts were concluded in fields such as bulk carriers, freeze trawlers, cutters radar equipment, ship's pumps and heavy duty motors. In the light of the brisk business concluded at this fair, the organisers stated, there is once again cautious optimism in shipyards all over the world.

The success of the exhibition was, moreover, underlined by the 18,000 experts who visited it, coming from all four corners of the world, about thirty different countries in all. They were in the main international shipping company managers and transport experts.

Where major exhibitors with a large share of the market were concerned about fifty per cent of the visitors to their stalls came from abroad. The largest foreign contingent came from Scandinavia, Great Britain and Eastern Europe.

Against the background of political tension in the Middle East the generally expected boom in drilling rigs was one of the main topics at the fair.

Another point that was discussed at length was the massive expansion of production capacity in Japanese shipyards. Many observers in Hamburg felt that at the rate Japan is expanding its shipbuilding programme it will soon have to place orders with other countries for shipboard technology items.

Among the general matters of interest for visitors was the British community exhibition, whose 35 exhibitors gave, it was agreed by the experts, a unique insight into the overall potential of the British shipping supply industry.

A similarly impeccable show of shipping equipment was given by Norway, whose seventeen exhibitors made it the second best represented country behind Britain.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 October 1972)

■ ACADEMIC FOUNDATIONS

Humboldt Stiftung is a boon to the world's scholars

DIE WELT

Just six months after the death of Alexander von Humboldt a foundation was set up in memory of his name on 19 December 1869 from private funds and contributions by the Royal Society in London and the Academy of Sciences in the then Petersburg. The aim of the foundation was to make money available for German natural scientists wishing to make research trips abroad.

The inflation that followed the First World War swallowed up funds and made it impossible for the Foundation to continue its work. But two years later the foundation was re-constituted by the German Reich and entrusted with the task of helping highly talented foreign students and young academics in their work.

Germany's second collapse in 1945 brought the second collapse of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. It was re-started by the Federal Republic in 1953, taking as its example the great German nature student "in order to give young scholars from other countries an opportunity to enlarge the scope of their scientific education by means of a study period in the Federal Republic."

Continuity of operations

These are the stages in the history of the Foundation, which thus accurately reflects the changes in Germany's relationship to the rest of the world throughout the years. What is most significant is that despite the revolutionary changes that have occured since 1860 there has been continuity of the Foundation with its individual way of working.

Strength of character is a phrase that is often applied to organisations as well as individuals that stand up well to the tests of time. And this certainly seems to apply to the Humboldt Foundation.

The Foundation states quite categorically that it supports the principle of productivity as the best guarantee for the "neutralisation of detrimental outside forces as far as possible".

"The society in which the position of the individual was determined by his achievements measured according to his talents would be a correctly constituted society, whether those talents lay in craftsman skills, in accumulated knowledge, in creative genius or in his ability to create links and relationships with other people. For the *Humboldt Stiftung* individual productivity counts! Therefore the Foundation does not ask questions about whether a projected research programme will be "of contemporary significance", but simply tests whether it is original.

In 1965 the constitution of the Foundation was tightened up again along these lines: "scientifically highly qualified" young academics (between 25 and 38) were to be given the opportunity to carry out research programmes in the Federal Republic with the aid of research stipendiums. "The Federal Republic cannot afford to give encouragement to any but the best brains."

At a time when there are hopes of achieving prosperity without the worst side of the rat race and a time of disparaging qualitatively selected elites it is essential to remain firm and hard about such proclamations. But clear principles do not say sufficient about the actual living effect.

Apart from a knowledge of the German language and sufficient academic qualifications the sure knowledge that the student will be able to return to his home country at the end of his study period here is an essential.

In general the principles of free application without convocation, the free choice of subject and the free selection of a place of work at a Federal Republic academic institution apply. The possibility of a scientific *Wanderjahr* is thus opened and the students are actually encouraged to spend four months of their period as guests of this country visiting another European country of their choice anywhere between Moscow and Madrid and including the German Democratic Republic.

So it is not just a question of utilising and boosting logical processes of thought, but is designed to expand human horizons fully according to the example set by the man whose name the Foundation took. It is for this purpose that students on a Humboldt stipendium travel each year round the country in inter-disciplinary groups and without any formalities.

All applicant's letters and correspondence following a course are answered personally to prevent the individual being treated as a mass product, which the General Secretary says would be the death of the Humboldt Foundation. With assistance from the Volkswagen Foundation a network of guest houses has been set up so that hospitality can be extended not only to the students but also their families.

The results of the Foundation's work over the past twenty years are available. With the aid of a scientific select committee 330 new students are chosen for a grant every year and it is planned to increase the number to 440. Four thousand students from 72 different countries have already been made welcome here through the Foundation. At selection not only country of origin but also subject of study is irrelevant. All are treated equally.

There are two types of grant, a research grant and a lecturership grant. And the decline in purchasing power of the Mark has not been overlooked. In the first instance the grant has been raised to 1,600 Marks a month and in the second to 1,900.

Of those who have benefitted from the scheme ninety per cent already have a lecturership at a university. The other ten per cent have important positions in commerce, industry and the diplomatic service. Quite a few have qualified to lecture at Federal Republic universities during their studies here.

The summary of the scientific and academic achievements of the Foundation fills fifty pages in its annual report.

Gratitude of Humboldt scholars is hard to measure, however, although one student who benefitted from a grant later bequeathed 2,500,000 Marks to the Foundation.

Gratitude was also the origin of the latest piece of progress chalked up. As a remembrance of the announcement of the Marshall Plan 25 years ago and the Fulbright Grants the Humboldt Foundation began on 5 June this year special grants for established American professors to obtain the rank of "full professor" of natural science and engineering, medicine and data-processing.

Many activities carried out in this country remain without lasting benefit because of the lack of patience for keeping up lifelong contacts and the energy to maintain non schematic links is missing.

The *Humboldt Stiftung* gives the appearance of having overcome these difficulties. The Foundation provides lasting aids for its students by answering their requests to obtain books and equipment, continued research aid by means of the award of a second grant for three months and the organisation of meeting on a regionalised basis for former students. Thus the old contacts are not allowed to die. In certain cases three generations of a Chair of learning at a University look back on a Humboldt grant. Continuity through the generations and throughout the world is the secret of the Humboldt scheme's success.

Another success lies in the fact that the President of the Foundation since it was re-formed has been one and the same man, Werner Heisenberg, and the General Secretary has also shown no willing to leave his post despite the fact that many tempting baits have been dangled in front of him.

A critically minded reporter sent to cover the story of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation would sniff around for a long time in vain to find a *stain* on its character. Long before the *Realpolitiker* came up with what they thought was a new *Ostpolitik* Eastern European scholars were receiving the first of the Foundation's grants to go behind the Iron Curtain — in 1954.

Voluntary application

The number of applicants from Czechoslovakia has slumped in recent years, but the reasons are evident. If the demand for grants in the humanities has fallen off as well the Foundation authorities cannot do anything about it. Application and indeed non-application is entirely voluntary and free from manipulation. The priorities at present seem to be: the natural sciences, jurisprudence and philosophy.

The greatest thing we can wish for this organisation, whose humanity seems almost old-fashioned, is that it will achieve an even greater degree of independence thanks to self-financing, and that it will continue to find the right kind of staff to keep up the good work.

Although capital turnover has doubled over six years and the number of courses that have been completed successfully has increased from 1,800 to 4,000 the working staff has remained unchanged in that time. Thrift can turn from orderliness to senselessness. Anonymity, the mechanics of the functioning of the organisation can then overwhelm the individual side to the detriment of personal relationships.

A supplement and complement to the Humboldt Foundation would be a similar scheme catering for thinkers who were not bound to the norms of the sciences. The 25th anniversary of the Federal Republic would be a favourable date for setting up such a foundation.

Oskar Splett

(Die Welt, 18 October 1572)

Continued from page 6

beginning of the new legislative period. This and other measures (involving income and corporation taxes) to encourage investment require the Bundestag's assent. Releasing shippers from the *Bardepot* restrictions, however, would not need to go before the Bundestag. But the Bundesbank in Frankfurt has come out strongly against this idea.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 October 1972)

Volkswagen Stiftung makes its annual report

Volkswagenwerk Stiftung with HQ in Hanover has made over 1,370 million Marks available for "the advancement of science and technology in research and education" in the first ten years of its existence, according to figures published in the 1971 annual report by the foundation. In all 2,782 projects benefited from this money.

This was cause for joy at the Foundation headquarters. But other figures were not so encouraging. In 1971 only 86.3 million Marks were made available as opposed to 176.6 million in the previous year. This was explained by the expected decline in gross yield which in turn can be blamed on the drop in yield as a result of cuts in dividends.

It is known that the Foundation's income proceeds from the yield on basic capital of about one milliard Marks, which was made over to the Foundation when Volkswagen was transferred to private ownership as well as from the dividends which have been credited to the Foundation from the participation of Bonn and the Lower Saxony government.

The Foundation's gross yield in 1971 was 133.1 million Marks (132.4 million in 1970) but it has just been announced that yield in 1972 is expected to be down by about 25 million Marks.

In 1971 the Hanover HQ made over about 142.3 million Marks for scientific advancement, part of which was allocations already promised. Of the money made available in 1971, the 86.3 million mentioned above, 25.9 went to the so-called *niedersächsische Vorab* (the current value of Lower Saxony dividends for Federal state advancement), 10.1 million to the housing programme, and the remaining 50.3 million was shared by 244 projects.

About one third (30.6 per cent as opposed to 45.8 per cent in the previous year) went to science universities and academies of science. 14.2 per cent (7.3) went to other public organisations, 16.2 per cent to private institutions, 5.2 per cent to foreign scientific bodies and 33.8 per cent to other works.

In its extensive annual report for 1971 the Foundation explains the transition from general scientific advancement schemes to its new programme with greater concentration on fewer projects.

The list of works to receive special attention published in 1970/1971 was amended for the first time in 1972. System research was taken up for the first time and promotional schemes for musicians were introduced these being limited to spheres that had already received benefits from the Foundation. Among the spheres struck from the list was development of teaching methods at school and in pre-school years.

The sphere of molecular and physical biology which the Foundation has supported since 1963 received almost 12 million Marks last year. The Foundation also made contributions towards the establishment of departments of biomedicinal techniques at universities.

The bulk of the funds made available by the Foundation for this work in 1971 went towards advance education of natural scientists.

Among other spheres to benefit from Volkswagen Foundation funds were system research, administrative science, international relations, regional development as well as projects for research into the mathematical and theoretical bases of the engineering sciences.

The Volkswagen Foundation will continue to support in the future a multifaceted programme in the sphere of advanced research at universities.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 20 October 1972)

■ TRANSPORTATION

Super high-speed railways are a long way off

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Once every four minutes the level crossing barriers come down along main-line Bundesbahn routes and trains pass through. The railways too are swiftly moving towards peak capacity.

At Elze, south of Hanover, work is shortly to begin on a new permanent way system that will enable trains to travel at speeds of up to 300 kilometres an hour (190 mph).

If a subsequent high-speed rail network linking the north, west and south of the country is also built the taxpayers will have to foot a bill of anything up to 100,000 million Marks.

Is expenditure of this magnitude either necessary or useful? This was the main issue dealt with, at times heatedly, by several hundred transport specialists at a recent Hanover conference on high-speed rail systems, the first conference on the subject ever to be held.

The limits of private road transport on trunk roads and autobahns are rapidly growing apparent. This is the reason why thought is being devoted to whether, once the autobahn construction programme comes to a close in 1985, improved air or rail transport facilities would be preferable.

Planners are thinking in terms of a period that will extend from the end of the current decade to the year 2010. As was, perhaps, to be expected they were unable to come to a clear conclusion at Hanover.

"The construction of an expensive high-speed rail network cannot be justified," Wulf-Diether Graf zu Castell, airport director at Munich, categorically stated, outlining the viewpoint of air transport operators.

The advocates of air transport expect great things of new aircraft such as the airbus, which is claimed to be an economic proposition over distances of as little as 300 kilometres. They also attach great importance to improved air traffic control techniques.

Yet even impartial observers such as Horst Weigelt of the Hamburg Institute for Research into Technical Development Lines feel that aircraft noise will so upset public opinion that new airports will be built further and further away from city centres.

But the greater the delay in adding to the existing Bundesbahn network, the more urgently regional air transport facilities are needed.

This is the point at which the two sides cross swords. The one advocates generous modernisation of the existing rail transport system, the other a venture into new fields of technology.

A society for the study of high-speed rail proposals is already in existence. In the wake of steady criticism at Hanover its director, Dr Töpfer, conceded that the society itself was not altogether satisfied with a report that has already been drawn up.

The report provides for a new permanent way independent of the present Bundesbahn network that would eventually cover most of the country in a figure of eight. Instead of travelling on wheels and rails the carriages will hover, either on air cushions (the hovercraft principle) or by means of magnetism.

Britain, France and America at present prefer the hovertrain idea, this country the magnetic field suspension. Trains will be powered either by electricity and linear motors, this country's proposal, or by gas turbines, the French idea.

The Hanover conference clearly revealed, however, that specialists have yet to get the hang of these new techniques. As things stand their supporters can neither forecast with any degree of certainty when their systems will be operating as safely as today's railways nor say how much money they are going to cost. Estimates vary between 20,000 and 40,000 million Marks.

What is more, international competition is rearing its ugly head. How sad that European cooperation on costly projects of the future of this kind does not appear possible!

Weigelt reckons that super-speed rail facilities will only be feasible on European key routes such as Hamburg-Cologne-Paris-Madrid. Yet the French are not thinking for a moment of abandoning their separate techniques, which are unquestionably less environmentally satisfactory than what this country has to offer.

So many questions remain unanswered that advocates of the existing railway network seize the main chance and promptly talk in terms of doubling the speed of conventional railways.

Under the present technological conditions, they note, the maximum feasible speed of wheels on rails is 350 kilometres an hour. The new permanent way, Dr Heinrich Lehmann of the Bundesbahn explained, is to be built so as to ensure safe travel at speeds of 300 kilometres an hour.

Priority is being given to the Hanover-Göttingen-Würzburg route and the Rhine-Ruhr and Rhine-Main links, he continued. Yet the Federal government has still to give the go-ahead for this minimum extension programme.

"And we are starting fifteen years too late as it is," another Bundesbahn spokesman lamented, casting a sideways glance at French and Japanese rail services already operating at speeds of 200 kilometres an hour (125 mph) and more.

The conference accordingly concluded by making express recommendations and demands to and of the Federal government. The government was recommended to ensure that the experimental high-speed test track at Donauried, near Augsburg, is completed by 1974.

New techniques must be further promoted and greater attention paid to the economic rather than the technological problems relating to super-speed systems.

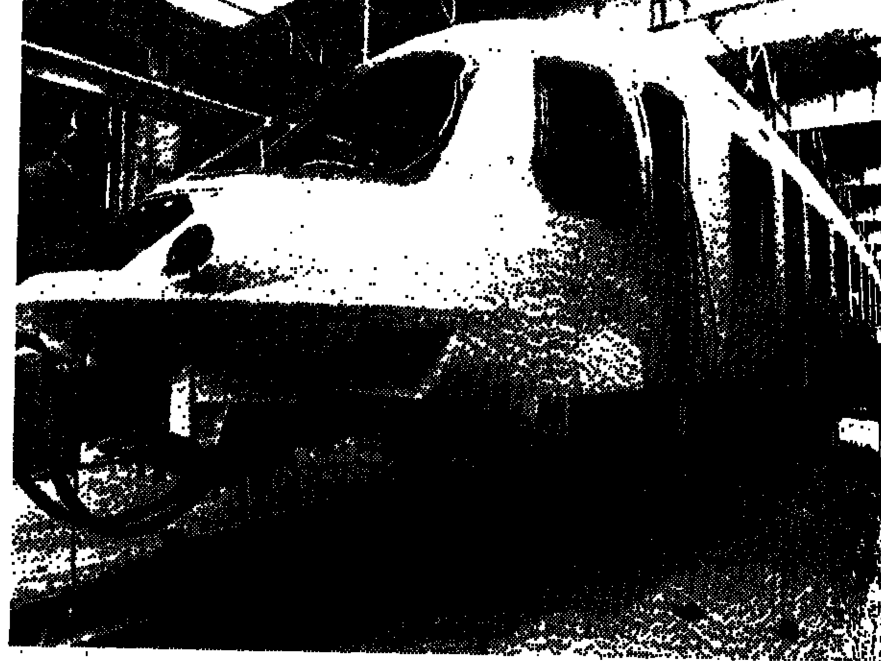
"The Federal government," the conference resolved, "must delay no further in giving the Bundesbahn permission to go ahead with the new track."

A short-term target has thus been set, but the super-speed system has been postponed to the distant future, as it were, since it will be a long time before proof is forthcoming that it would be worthwhile building. For the time being, though, funds are not available to go ahead with either system.

In Hanover "a first attempt was made to deal with the problems involved in order to determine the ideal shape future transport systems must take," Professor Rolf Kracke, head of the department of transport at Hanover University of Technology and the man behind the conference idea, concluded.

Dieter Tasch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 October 1972)



The new ET 403 electric locomotive (Photo: dpa)

On air cushions over land and water

Air cushion vehicles are a speciality of 'Delta Design', a group of three talented young technologists in Stuttgart. Their latest prototype, a vehicle with two Wankel engines for use on land and water, was recently presented by a Stuttgart car firm. The relatively light vehicle with a plastic body can reach a speed of 50 km/hour on an airy cushion. Actually, the Stuttgart designers had merely meant this "Hover" as an advertising gag but two large firms immediately voiced their interest. They want to sign up the Delta Team for close collaboration in developing additional air cushion vehicles. Michael Conrad, Henner Werner and Detlef Unger are certainly willing. Up until now, they have primarily earned their living with designs for toy cars. (Photo: Archiv)

Bremen-Munich high-speed rail link to open in 1973

Starting next summer (the summer time-table of Deutsche Bundesbahn, the German Federal Railways, starts on 3 June 1973) a "jumbo on wheels" so aerodynamically contoured that its pointed nose resembles that of the Concorde jet will regularly travel the 761 kilometres between Bremen and Munich at speeds of up to 200 kilometres an hour (125 mph), the upper safety limit.

This new high-speed inter-city link will be powered by the ET 403 electric locomotive, a new and so far unique model combining all that is new in railway engineering.

Six of these locomotives are being built by Linke-Hofmann-Busch in Salzgitter and the carriages in between are being supplied by Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of Donauwörth.

The silver-grey express locomotives have a pointed nose sloping flatly upwards from their Scharfenberg automatic coupling to the slanting roof. This elegant, aerodynamic form is underlined here and there by flashes of bright orange paint.

Track-aligned chassis steering enables the ET 403 to take curves faster than conventional locomotives and technical equipment includes automatic acceleration and braking controls, an inductive safety system and safety gearing.

Considerable thought has also been devoted to passenger comfort, the Bremen-Munich inter-city express boasting first-class carriages only. Seats have been specially contoured to body requirements and the materials, patterns and upholstery are up-to-the-minute fashion-wise. Air conditioning is a matter of course and a number of other little extras add to the comfort.

Once sufficient experience has been gained from regular runs between Bremen and Munich "jumbos on wheels" will be introduced on other routes too.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 19 October 1972)

An egg a day for motoring safety

Every motorist ought to eat an egg a day before taking to the wheel. Eggs boost powers of concentration and performance and strengthen the nerves, according to Professor Willi Wirths of the Max Planck Institute of Nutritional Physiology in Dortmund.

Heavy workers need so much energy that the professor recommends them to eat between two and three eggs a day.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 October 1972)



■ MOTORING

Survey analyses causes of road accidents

"In eight out of ten cases pile-ups occur because the driver in front brakes or stops," the Association of Federal Republic Motor Insurers concludes from a survey of the most frequent category of traffic accidents.

This assertion is based on a survey of 63,084 accidents involving serious injuries to drivers, passengers and pedestrians, including 2,298 pile-ups accounting between them for 8,028 fatalities and serious injuries.

Traffic jams are a major cause of pile-ups (as opposed to head-on collisions), accounting for nineteen per cent of the accidents analysed.

Seven per cent of the total took place at traffic lights because the car in front drew to an abrupt halt while the lights were changing from green to amber instead of driving on as the motorist in the car behind had expected.

6.1 per cent of the cars hit from behind had themselves driven into the car in front and a further 5.4 per cent had been involved in an accident of some other kind and were not adequately indicated by flashing lights, warning triangles and the like.

According to the survey a good third of the victims were either partially or entirely to blame for being rammed from the rear.

What is more, 6.8 per cent of the victims and 10.1 per cent of the offenders were found to have been under the influence of drink.

One in four of the motorists who failed to brake in time had drunk a good few over the eight (more than 200 milligrammes in the blood alcohol count). A further two thirds were found to have a blood alcohol count in excess of 120 milligrammes.

Women drivers cause fewer pile-ups than men. The accident analysts attribute this fact in part to women drinking less than men. "Because of the female psyche they drive in a more defensive manner, less frequently take to the wheel when under the influence of drink and do not drive so fast."

Statistics reveal the following figures. Male motorists account for an average of 90.9 per cent of serious traffic accidents overall. In the case of pile-ups they account for 93.9 per cent of the total.

This percentage is not exceeded for any other category of accident, the survey states, wondering whether women might possibly be better at judging distances and more attentive than men.

Thirty per cent of pile-ups occur because the motorists underestimate the braking-distance on wet roads, in black ice (5.2 per cent), snow (5.4 per cent), rain (10.7 per cent) and fog (4.9 per cent).

October, with 11.1 per cent, is statistically the month in which the most pile-ups occur. The insurance statisticians attribute this phenomenon to the fact that motorists forget to take slippery road surfaces into account "although they are not only to be expected at this time of year."

More than half the pile-ups are caused by eighteen- to thirty-year-olds, while the over-sixties perform proportionately better with 3.2 per cent.

The over-sixties fare worse when it comes to accidents involving right of way, their share of which is 8.3 per cent, and turning and lane-changing (6.8 per cent).

The Motor Insurers Association reaches the following conclusions from the statistics analysed:

— Legislators and motor manufacturers ought to compare notes and enable the car in front and the car behind to communicate more comprehensibly, further ensuring that rear lights and signals are uniform.

— Some means must be found of rendering the dangerous green-to-amber traffic lights phase less tricky. One suggestion is that amber be abolished and replaced by the green light flashing.

— A note ought to be made in the central motor vehicle registration office of motorists who have caused pile-ups. Habitual offenders should be compelled to pay the doctor and psychologist a visit in order to determine whether they are fit to drive a motor vehicle.

(Die Welt, 20 October 1972)



Package for safety training

In conjunction with ADAC, the automobile association, the Road Safety Council has introduced a new road safety programme. The 'media box' is specially designed to interest young people and consists of two stereo records with a soundtrack interspersed with pop music that it is hoped will stimulate listeners to read the four training manuals included in the road safety training package. (Photo: Die Welt)

FILM FESTIVAL

Mannheim tolls death knell of ideology

This country's film industry has made obvious progress if, as is claimed, the films shown at this year's Mannheim Film Festival were a representative cross-section of current production.

The polarisation generally found last year among film directors — the "romantic arty types" on the one hand and the "political agitators" on the other — has given way to a striking mood of calm and objectivity or perhaps even apathy and resignation, especially among the most dogmatic members of each group.

Those film directors deeply committed in the political world seem to have realised that slogans, catchwords, theory, dogma and the waving of red flags are above the heads of the people they are actually meant for and achieve nothing except perhaps opposition, which is not the real aim.

The trail was blazed by Christian Ziewer's well thought-out work *Liebe Mutter, mir geht es gut* which was given its premiere at the International Modern Film Forum held under the auspices of the Berlin Film Festival.

Ziewer's film is a painstakingly accurate and dialectically based description of the world of labour intending to show that social conditions can be altered. The difference between this and earlier films of the same type is that Ziewer does not indulge in slogans calling for the class struggle.

Other directors have copied this approach. Films like *Kippe, Mannheim-Rheinau, Heuweg* by the Krauss-Ossowski-Schoeller team and *Die Wollands* by Marianne Lüdecke and Ingo Kratisch are not the old-style propaganda films but serious documentary works illustrating the social problems and contradictions inherent in capitalism and tailor-made for the mentality and receptiveness of the audience it aims at.

It is not surprising that political films from Latin America are so aggressive and militant in view of the pre-revolutionary situation there and the unbelievable difficulties involved in production.

What is Democracy?, a Columbian documentary film by Carlos Alvarez incorporating a number of cartoon elements, does not maintain any distance to its subject but describes passionately the history of Columbia, showing that though the rolers may change, the system of dictatorial exploitation remains.

The six-day Mannheim Film Festival — this year with 39 entries from sixteen countries as well as other films for the non-competitive sections of the event — is still too large to allow useful contacts.

But on the plus side there was a highly-informative selection of Indian and Swiss films and a survey to the latest activities of the British Film Institute whose production board follows the stylistic and thematic impulses of the Free Cinema of Tony Richardson, Karel Reisz, Lindsay Anderson and Jack Clayton.

These British films formed the high-point of a Mannheim Film Festival that provided plenty of stimulus. Bill Douglas' *My Childhood* and Mike Leigh's *Bleak Moments* were both intensive, strictly realistic and extremely wary documents of mental deformation, vandalism and alienation caused by social conditions. The two films were more appealing than those ideological contributions which cause their own downfull by claiming infallibility.

Jean-Marie Straub presented his latest film *Geschichtsunterricht* (History Lesson) based on a novel of Bertolt Brecht. Unfortunately, the showing had to be given in private for copyright reasons.

It is too easy to dismiss Straub as an exponent of the anti-film. Straub takes the formal asceticism of Carl Theodor Dreyer and Robert Bresson to its logical extreme and certainly makes things difficult for himself and his audience.

But people should not underestimate the importance of Straub's rigorous unpopular aestheticism as a counterweight to the fashionable eccentric filming techniques involving rubber lens, slow motion and the like.

Henning Harmssen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 October 1972)

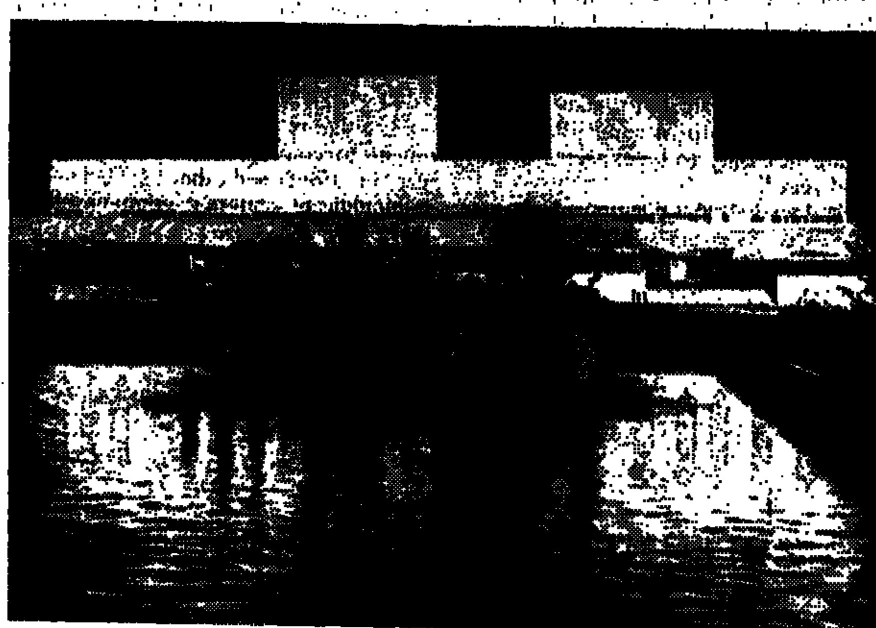
Plans announced for Prix Futura

The Prix Futura will be taking place for the third time in Berlin in 1973 at the invitation of the Sender Freies Berlin. This television competition alternates with the Munich Prix Jeunesse and takes place in Berlin every two years. Sixteen television stations from twelve countries entered twenty films at the last Prix Futura.

The films are meant to be a constructive contribution towards understanding tomorrow's world. The 1973 Prix Futura will be held between 29 March and 5 April at the Deutsche Stiftung für Entwicklungsländer.

The invitations and regulations have been issued in Russian as well as German, English and French, indicating that the organisers hope for Russian participation at the event.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 12 October 1972)



Federal Republic's newest theatre

Darmstadt's new theatre centre cost almost 73 million Marks and has a seating capacity in its two theatres for almost 1,500 people. The dramatic design was conceived by Rolf Prange. The ultra-modern interior decorations were designed by Arnaldo Pomodoro.

(Photo: Pit Ludwig)

Who won what!

The Grand Prix of the International Mannheim Film Festival, worth ten thousand Marks, was awarded to Argentinian Miguel Bejo for his first film *La Familia unida esperando da llegada de Hallewyn* (All the Family Awaiting Hallewyn's Return).

The Josef von Sternberg Prize worth two thousand Marks was awarded to the Hungarian Zoltán Huszárik for his feature film *Sindbad*.

The five Film Ducats, each worth one thousand Marks, went to *Film Portrait* by American Jerome Hill, *Heute Nacht oder nie* by Daniel Schmid from Switzerland, *Minamata*, a documentary about pollution by Chuchimoto Noriaki of Japan, *Que Hacer* by Saul Landau, Nina Serrano and Paul Ruiz of Chile and *Die Wollands*, a film about a case of social conflict by Marianne Lüdcke and Ingo Kratisch of the Federal Republic.

Dispossessed, a description of the problems of Indian reservations by American George Ballis, and *Passages*, a portrait of Swiss painter H.R. Giger by Ferdi Murer, also of Switzerland, were awarded the title of the best television films.

The Film Critics Prize (Fipresci) was awarded to *Que Hacer* of Chile and *Die Wollands* of the Federal Republic.

The (Protestant) Interfilm Prize went to *Kippe, Mannheim-Rheinau, Heuweg* by the Krauss-Ossowski-Schoeller team while the Catholic Film Prize was awarded to *My Childhood*, Bill Douglas' first film.

The jury, presided over by the well-known Polish film director Jerzy Kawalerowicz (Mother Joan of the Angels), issued a statement criticising the unsatisfactory overall standard of this year's competition.

It stated that it only reached a decision in a number of cases in order to do something useful with the money attached to the awards. The films it chose were often justifiably criticised.

La Familia unida esperando da llegada de Hallewyn by Miguel Bejo was an experimental and bizarre underground film. The state of affairs in Argentina is meant to be symbolised by the total decline of a bourgeois family, depicted with horror-film methods and eccentric scorn.

Asked whether the Hallewyn whose return is awaited is meant to be Perón, Bejo smiled enigmatically and answered: "A Super-Perón."

This black and white film was shot in a fortnight and has not been cut but it reveals a high degree of talent and commitment, though not formal perfection. Bejo incorporates stylistic elements from Argentinian Torre Nilsson and the Surrealist Bunuel.

Zoltán Huszárik's *Sindbad* is based on a short story by Gyula Krúdy which takes

Continued on page 11

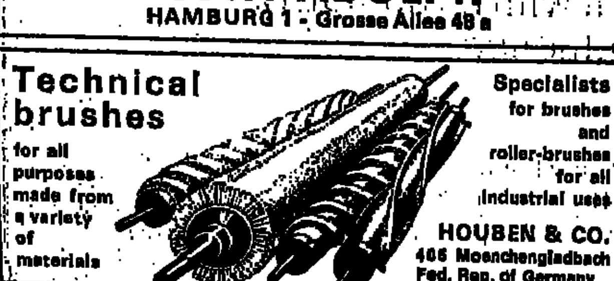
documenta 5 closes

The fifth Kassel documenta closed its doors on 8 October after attracting a record number of 225,000 visitors during the one hundred days it was open. The exhibition was described as the most youthful documenta there ever was — it was also the most controversial.

"The subject and organisation of the next documenta must now be prepared," Karl Branner, Kassel's mayor and head of the controlling board of documenta, stated. "This, the largest and most important exhibition of modern art in the world is linked with Kassel and will remain so."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 October 1972)





NOBEL PRIZE

Vignette of Heinrich Böll, the 1972 winner

This year's Nobel Prize for Literature has been awarded to writer Heinrich Böll by the Swedish Academy. It is worth 480,000 kroner and will be presented along with the other Nobel Prizes for 1972 in the Swedish capital on 10 December. Böll was awarded the prize for his "contemporary far-sighted outlook together with great sensitivity which has had a regenerative effect on German literature." Heinrich Böll is the first German to receive the Prize for Literature since Thomas Mann in 1929, but other writers in the German language have been awarded it, Hermann Hesse in 1946 and Nelly Sachs in 1966.

Heinrich Böll, the son of a joiner, was born on 21 December 1917 in Cologne. He intended to become a librarian, but had to break off his studies when he was conscripted into the labour service and later into the *Wehrmacht*.

After the War in which he was wounded three times, he returned to Cologne, took up German Studies and took a job at the same time to finance his studies. In 1947 he began writing short stories, many of which were impregnated with the atmosphere of the War as he had experienced it.

His first novel was an anti-war piece entitled *Wo warst du, Adam?* (Where've you been, Adam?). *Und sagte kein einziges Wort* (1953) dealt with the marriage of a returning soldier jeopardised by the misery in which the couple live.

The novel *Haus ohne Hüter* and *Das Brot der frühen Jahre* followed in 1954 and 1955. The latter has been filmed. And in 1957 Böll wrote his *Irish Diary*.

Billard um halb zehn (Billiards at 9.30), a novel published in 1959, saw Böll's return to the theme of the war and the collapse of middle-class society. In 1961 a select anthology was published containing the *Letter to a young Catholic* which deals with the attitude of the German Catholic Church during the Nazi Period and in postwar years.

Ansichten eines Clowns (The Clown) published in 1963 became a bestseller and was hotly discussed. Böll's latest novel *Gruppenbild mit Dame* was published last year. In addition he has written many plays, most of them radio plays.

Böll's prolific output has received many honours. In 1953 he received the Federal Republic Critic's Prize, in 1954 the BDI — Literature Prize, in 1955 the Tribune de Paris Prize for the best foreign novel (*Haus ohne Hüter*). The Staatspreis Nordrhein-Westfalen was awarded to Böll in 1958 and in 1959 the Grosser Kunstpreis of NRW state. He received the Charles de Veillon Prize in 1960 for *Billard* and in autumn 1967 the Georg Büchner Prize.

In 1971 Heinrich Böll was elected President of International PEN.

The overriding theme of Böll's work is the War, experiences in action and the collapse of the pre-war bourgeois society. His sarcasm is cleverly restrained and thus all the more effective as he points out and attacks the weak spots in this society, its pretence, its satiety and its egoism, its — often pretended — Christian belief and the "good things" it claimed to do as a result. Böll has often expressed his dissatisfaction about conditions and institutions in the Federal Republic such as in his speech in Darmstadt on "freedom of the arts", in his lecture "the end of modesty" in 1969 on the occasion of the founding of the Association of Federal Republic Writers and in his address on the occasion of the "opening of the week of brotherhood" in Cologne in which he "expressly and finally" distanced himself from such festivals because they were the very antithesis of brotherhood.

Critical statements by Böll recently about political events and his attitude to the Catholic Church have made headlines.

Thanks to his personality and literary achievements filled with sympathy for people suffering from hard times Böll enjoys great respect from his readership, as surveys have shown.

This respect comes virtually independently of his political standpoint. It is "elementary sympathy" (Ernst Fischer) that can even reconcile his political adversaries.

The Secretary of the Swedish Academy, Karl Ragnar Gierow, called Böll's work evidence of the re-birth of German literature after the War.



(Photo: Brigitte Friedrich)

Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt offered Böll his heartiest congratulations on the award. In a telegram published by the Federal Press and Information Bureau Brandt said he was pleased that this honour had gone to a man "whose work had made such a great impression beyond the borders of his own country and in countries of the East and West". Böll had "given new dimensions to the power of the written word" and contributed largely towards sharpening up the consciences of his fellow men.

Federal President Gustav Heinemann was involved in the launching of a biography of himself when he heard of the Nobel award to Böll. His first comment: "I'm pleased to hear it."

(Kieler Nachrichten, 20 October 1972)

Continued from page 10

the Don Juan theme and sets it into the Europe of the turn of the century.

The film has formal attraction (the use of colour and the way flashbacks are employed to suggest association) but there are objections to be made about the completely unironic depiction of this bearded connoisseur who exerts such a fascinating influence on women.

Huszárik states that this type of emotional film is seen by the younger generation in his country as an alternative to the ideology prevalent in many of the other films made in Hungary.

But romantic subjects of this sort could be treated with a little more distance as Cheijfiz's film of the Classical Russian novel *Lady with Lapdog* shows.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 October 1972)

Swedish Academy's citation

Heinrich Böll is at present on a trip to Israel via Italy and Greece. He will be returning to the Federal Republic acclaimed as the 1972 recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to him on 19 October.

The highly respected Swedish Academy which awards the Nobel Prize consists of eighteen members. They are mostly professors and writers. The ceremonial award of the Prize on 10 December in Stockholm will as always be made by the Swedish King Gustav VI Adolf. This year's Prize is worth 480,000 kroner (325,000 Marks). Böll is the seventh German Nobel Prizewinner.

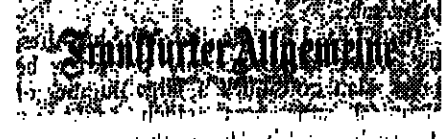
The citation of the prize formulated by the Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy Ragnar Gierow says: "This year's Literature Prizewinner made his debut in 1949. A select biography of Heinrich Böll dated January 1972 with works by and about Böll includes about forty works written by him, not counting reprintings and revised versions. It is concluded by his 1971 work *Gruppenbild mit Dame*, which is his most important book so far. This book with its portentous contents has become a vital object for commentators. The reason for this is perhaps to be found in Böll's way of working. Almost every time when we see something new from him techniques and perspectives have been changed. His writing is too rich and full of surprises.

"Böll has seldom strayed very far from the bounds of realistic narration. He is not interested in experimenting with styles and forms of writing to anything like the extent of other authors whose works are all important in this country and others.

"And yet Böll has said: 'I do not need great realism.' This is quite remarkable coming from a man who has been described as a realist and who probably thinks of himself in such terms.

"There is another reality which Böll's writing has always required, the background against which his being has been marked out, the breath of life that his generation had to breathe, the inheritance that they had to accept.

"This reality is the oft-recurring, accurately observed motif of his whole



creation, from the beginning right down to his masterpiece *Gruppenbild mit Dame*, the work that has crowned his literary achievements so far.

"Böll's actual breakthrough came in the years 1953 to 1955. He published three novels in quick succession: *Und sagte kein einziges Wort*, *Haus ohne Hüter* and *Das Brot der frühen Jahre*. These titles (Not a word was said, A house with no breadwinner, and The bread of the early years) outline the reality that the author depicted with obstinacy and with power. The background and the question of such food remain a vivid memory.

"The inheritance that he and his contemporaries had to master was a house without a guardian, an existence that was in ruins, where time was widowed and the future was without a father.

"He and his generation were forced to breathe the air in a country where everyone's throat was in the grips of dictatorship and not a word was said because the grip was so tight it stifled every sound.

"It is one of the postwar miracles in Germany that so soon after the holocaust and the years of hunger and desolation a new generation of writers, thinkers and researchers was so quickly at the ready to take up their real job and that of the country as a whole in rebuilding the intellectual life of the country.

"The renaissance of German literature of which Heinrich Böll's books bear ample witness does not involve experiments in style. It is a question of renewal and rebuilding out of destruction, the restoration of life, the sowing of an intellectual seed. Alfred Nobel stated that his Prize was intended to reward just such initiatives."

Several times in the past few years Heinrich Böll has been among the writers nominated for the Nobel literature award.

Heinrich Böll's works have been translated wholly or partly throughout the West, particularly in America, and in the East Bloc. In Slav countries in particular Böll's name is synonymous with contemporary German literature. His latest novel *Gruppenbild mit Dame* (Group picture with a lady) has so far been published in Italy, Norway and The Netherlands. Contracts have been signed for publication in Japan, Spain, Greece, Sweden and Finland.

Negotiations to bring the book to the Anglo-Saxon world are now under way with Secker & Warburg in Britain and with McGraw-Hill in the USA.

The GDR has not yet made moves to secure publication of the work but extracts are to appear in the Soviet Union in *Novy Mir*. Negotiations are under way with Mlaidinska Kujiga in Ljubljana, to bring the book to Yugoslavia in Slovene, while it is to appear in Serbo-Croat under the Zora imprint.

The Hungarian rights for Böll's latest novel have been applied for by Maveto publishing house.

According to Kiepenheuer & Witsch the world sales of Böll's books last October reached the 1,300,000 level, excluding sales in the Soviet Union. Figures are not available for the Soviet Union but it is estimated that sales of Böll works there are around the two million mark.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 October 1972)

■ SCIENCE

Physicists discuss future trends at Wiesbaden

Frankfurter Rundschau

Few scientists could have foreseen in the past what their colleagues discuss at conferences today. Yesterday's science fiction has today become technically feasible.

Some 1,500 physicists from Europe and overseas were recently invited to Wiesbaden by the European Physics Association to discuss future developments in the physical and technological sector.

But this international congress did not turn out to be one of those specialist conferences where scientists announce their latest finding and criticise or totally reject those of their colleagues.

Instead, the conference provided a broad survey of the present state of affairs and the development that physics would probably go through in the next few years.

The lectures could not be fitted into the classical system of individual physical desciplines. Modern aspects of physics were seen to have increased in significance.

Biophysics, atmospheric geophysics, quantum optics, plasma physics and solid state research attract far more young scientists today than old-fashioned mechanics, acoustics or optics.

Two main subjects stood at the forefront of discussions at the physicists congress in Wiesbaden. A number of talks were given on the interrelationship between basic research and technological development.

Professor B.B. Goodman of London reported that the physicists' love for absolute zero was only just beginning to bear economic fruit after 75 years.

Supra-conduction has permitted the construction of large efficient magnets, heavy duty railways and efficient motors. The physical phenomenon of supra-conduction discovered by Dutch physicist Kamerlingh Onnes in 1908 also permits the determination of the magnetic field of the blood as it flows through the heart. Miniscule supra-conductive measuring coils are used.

This specific application, which is of great significance in the measurement technology sector, was however preceded by the development of a theory which is today named after physicist Josephson.

Other talks dealt with the development of modern technologies based directly on the research findings of recent years. Professor G. Fiosco of Florence outlined the importance of laser equipment for atmospheric geophysics. Wind speeds and pollution can be measured extremely accurately with the help of the laser.

Modern equipment can even trace nitrogen oxyde in damp air when it forms only one part in a million. It is therefore possible to examine the way exhaust fumes spread out from along a busy road.

Professor A. Schlüter of Garching took a look into the future in his talk on fusion reactors. Scientists at many laboratories throughout the world are trying to exploit the fire of the sun and open up a new source of energy for mankind.

But nobody has yet been able to melt hydrogen atoms though Professor Schlüter did point out that scientists had got much nearer to solving this problem. He was not however able to say when this new-style reactor would be available for energy production.

Apart from these purely physical subjects, including cosmology, a second complex stood at the centre of the Wiesbaden conference — physics and society, research grants and the training of physicists.

Professor Ludwig von Friedeburg, the Hesse Education Minister, underlined scientists' responsibility to society in the speech he made when opening the conference.

Professor J. Tinbergen from the Hague seized on this and claimed that physics was today embedded in the overall social system and its importance within this system as a result of scientific progress should be recognised.

The problems touched upon time and again by the Wiesbaden congress had therefore been raised. Some five hundred physicists discussed the relationship between physics and society.

They repeatedly stated that they could no longer take refuge in the ivory tower of their subject but should pay more attention to social factors in future. They have recognised that they will only be able to pursue their scientific hobbies in future if they manage to convince society of the necessity of scientific research.

But all contributions to the discussion showed that there have been few official contacts between science and politics in the past and that both partners must show more understanding for each other's position.

Professor H.B.G. Casimir of Eindhoven made an important contribution to the discussion of the social aspects of physics. He appealed to his colleagues in industry and science not to disclaim all responsibility just because they were physicists.

They could easily control progress by proving a regulative factor, he claimed. The universities should retain their independence towards industry and industry must respect this independence.

Any link between defence research and the universities should also be subject to such regulative factors, the professor claimed. "But personally I believe that university scientists should refuse to cooperate on work designed to serve military purposes," he added. "The misuse of modern technology gives cause for alarm." Professor Casimir is not the only person to hold this view.

Konrad Müller

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 October 1972)

Biologists told of effects of noise on mouse embryos

The number of children born with malformations is rising. Karlheinz Rosenbauer of Düsseldorf told the main assembly of the Biologists Association in Munich that the current malformation rate is estimated to be about seven per cent.

On top of this come all those malformations that are only recognised as the child grows older or during an operation.

Only about ten per cent of these malformations are hereditary. Eighty per cent of them must be attributed to complicated and in many cases still unstudied combinations of internal and external influences. The other ten per cent result from purely exogenic influences.

Excessive noise seems to be one of these exogenic influences. Manfred Strassburg, the Düsseldorf scientist, subjected a number of female mice to noise treatment shortly after their conception.

The mice were placed a maximum of eight inches away from a loudspeaker blaring out beat music at around one hundred decibels. The mice had to listen to this for one hour, then had four hours' rest before being forced to listen to it again. In all, they had three doses of this noise treatment.

If this noise treatment was conducted on the tenth day of pregnancy the rate of babies born with a cleft palate was the same as in a control group that was not subjected to the din — 2.4 per cent.

But when this treatment was delayed by a day the malformation rate among the mice subjected to noise rocketed to some 32 per cent, a sure sign that the foetus does not react with the same vehemence to noise in all stages of its development but is particulary sensitive during certain critical periods.

Karlheinz Rosenbauer stated that the stress to which the mice were subjected probably caused damage to their offspring by increasing adrenalin secretion.

The increase in malformations among human babies cannot be attributed solely to environmental influences but may also be due on some occasions to side-effects of medical treatment.

Doctors therefore try to avoid surgery, innoculation, radiation treatment or prescription of drugs where their patient is in the first three months of pregnancy.

Rosenbauer stated that eighty per cent of women who consult their doctor during the first three months of pregnancy are prescribed drugs, commenting that this was particularly hazardous in light of the thalidomide tragedy.

Much of the blame must be attached to the women themselves, Rosenbauer added, though the recent report in a medical journal that the risk of a road accident was 330 times as great as contracting leukaemia as a result of pre-natal damage did tend to play down the dangers involved.

Apparently harmless substances such as caffeine and vitamin C also have a teratogenic effect on animals. Caffeine stops cell division in sea-urchin eggs, drastically reduces the fertility of rabbits and causes dead births in mice and rabbits and malformations in their surviving progeny.

Vitamin C, like vitamins A and D which have been proved to have a teratogenic effect during experiments on animals, is an ingredient of many multi-vitamin prepartions and medicaments. When the dose was high enough, pregnant rats lost their offspring through miscarriage.

But Rosenbauer states that Soviet researchers have found a link between taking large doses of vitamin C (six grammes a day for a number of days) and the incidence of miscarriages.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 October 1972)

Scientists in Munich discuss drawbacks of progress

The Society of German Doctors and Scientific Researchers first met in Leipzig 150 years ago. Its subsequent history reflects a chapter of scientific development.

Topical scientific problems were always discussed at Society conferences and this year was no exception. The main theme of the 107th congress in Munich was "Coping with Progress".

Various aspects of the problem were dealt with by the large audience and all recognised progress as desirable or, at any rate, inevitable. But the consequences of progress must be considered before we are overwhelmed by them.

This danger exists in the sphere of scientific research. New discoveries demand new methods and new methods lead to new findings. This vicious circle is beginning to revolve at a rapid rate.

Most of this progress has beneficial results but some research is merely being done for the sake of it and the results are of little advantage to anyone.

This results in an increase in data and literature and quantity often outweighs quality in the process, Professor P. Sitte of Freiburg warned. Even computers can only sift information — the final insight depends on the personal intuition of the researcher himself.

The world seems to be threatened by a population explosion but long-term forecasts in this sector are often wrong. Professor H.W. Jürgens of Kiel outlined the many reasons for numerical changes in the population in his speech on the "regulation of the dynamics of human populations".

The main reasons are fertility, mortality, emigration and immigration. The subsidiary reasons are more complex. The rate of population growth in the Federal Republic has sunk since 1964 simply because people do not want so many children. Social aspects and a certain degree of inertia can also influence population figures.

Along with the population explosion it is the rising consumption of raw materials and pollution of the environment which threaten humanity the most. Increasing energy production is one source of danger we must face. It is imposible to cut down on energy production as this would result in sickness and hunger.

Professor H. Grümm of Vienna turned to this problem in his talk. Man's energy requirements are today largely covered by fossile fuels such as coal, oil and gas, he pointed out. The supply will soon dry up, however. New forms of energy supply must be found. The possibilities offered by nuclear energy sources have come just in time.

Professor H. Flohn of Bonn dealt with the problems affecting our water supplies in his speech to the Chemists Association conference held under the auspices of the Doctors and Scientific Researchers Association congress.

Man requires an increasing amount of water as well as energy, Professor Flohn stated. Irrigation schemes — the total area under artificial irrigation is equivalent to nine times the size of the Federal Republic — and building dams have already increased natural surface condensation by three per cent.

Industry's water requirements and the cooling installations found in power stations also influence the fresh water situation. Even the water found on the edge of the Sahara, a relic of the Ice Age, is slowly dropping in level because of increasing consumption. But water is an essential factor in ensuring the continued existence of the human race.

Progress has made life easier to live but it has also brought disadvantages in its train and we do not know their full extent. Professor D. Henschler of Würzburg spoke of the toxicological problems in his talk.

In the food he eats, the air he breathes, the water he drinks and the drugs he takes Man consumes a large number of chemical substances which could endanger his health. These substances could cause cancer of increase the number of mutations.

Experiments on animals help clarify the situation but the results obtained do not necessarily apply to humans. Only a large amount of time, money and staff will enable us to gain conclusive information on the extent of the danger.

Dr H. Woltereck

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 13 October 1972)

■ EDUCATION

The comprehensive university — an educational supermarket

DEUTSCHE ZEITUNG Christ und Welt

Comprehensive universities cause their fair share of controversy from time to time and people either support them wholeheartedly or reject them out of hand. But what exactly is a comprehensive university?

As the name suggests, it is the educational establishment which would result from a combination of all institutes of further education including universities, colleges of education, advanced vocational colleges and academies of art.

It is more than a copy of conventional universities or a mere conglomeration of institutes of further education. Integration is the main aim, as the Assistant Lecturers Conference demands.

The main criteria for comprehensive university are:

1. Integrated teaching and research activities;
2. Equality among teachers;
3. Joint planning of curricula;
4. A united student body;
5. Integrated planning of financial, staff and building aspects;
6. Standardised administration.

These are the criteria for the integrated form of a comprehensive university. In the cooperative form of comprehensive university the various sections have separate accommodation and administration. Each of the institutes has its own teachers and student body and research is conducted solely within its four walls. A joint committee composed of representatives of the various institutes draw up the courses given in the various sections.

Apart from these two pure forms of comprehensive university there are various hybrid forms. A cooperative type of comprehensive university could be given an integrated central administration.

The feature common to all these forms is that they offer courses supplementing or elaborating upon courses given in other sections of the university. This can occur in various ways. There are for instance:

The Y Model — after a standardised course of basic study students can concentrate on the practical or theoretical branch of a subject.

The V Model — two independent streams possessing the same entry standards.

The H Model — two independent streams offering students the possibility of switching from one to the other.

The Consecutive Model — students are qualified after the first phase of studies and can either go out to work or study further in the same branch.

Weizäcker's Building-Block System — study is divided into various sections which can be combined to give the student the education he requires.

The most appropriate system must be found for each subject. Courses of study would only be lengthened if a system was imposed arbitrarily without taking consideration of the special nature of a subject.

Examination must for instance be made of whether a joint basic study course is possible for the sciences or whether the nature of each subject demands more specialised study from the very first term.

Arguments about the integrated and cooperative forms of the comprehensive university dominated the intermediate stage of discussions. Advocates of the integrated form believe that this is the only form appropriate to a constitutional State in the long term as is should lead to the disappearance of the hierarchic structure of further education.

Supporters of the cooperative form of comprehensive university claimed on the other hand that their system was far more appropriate for coping with the various courses of education. Integration, they claim, is not possible in a large country where institutes of further education are widespread.

People are gradually turning to the question that should have been uppermost in their mind from the very beginning of discussions — is it really necessary to set up a central organisation to guarantee simplicity, efficiency and equality of opportunity or does central organisation only inhibit these welcome features?

A process of decentralisation is now taking place in the United States but in this country we are belatedly catching up on past American developments and first of all adopting a policy of centralisation.

But even now universities find it hard to cope with the growing number of students. Administration is slow and there is less and less cooperation between the various disciplines.

Imagine comprehensive universities with twenty thousand or more students and you can imagine the effects that Parkinson's Law would have. The various institutes would be forced to lead an independent existence, the desired simplification of administration would result in an increase in administration and students would find it harder to cope, leading to longer periods of study and an increase in the failure rate.

It is also doubtful whether the theoretical advantages of comprehensive universities will stand the test of practical application. The extent to which introductory lectures and courses for students of various disciplines are possible is still not known.

The courses in politics and sociology for future social workers are not likely to be of much benefit for other students in this field. The possibility of combining courses offered by the various sections of the comprehensive university will also lead to professional blind alleys.

The principles behind the comprehensive university must therefore be reexamined and educationalists must answer the question of whether putting this reform into effect depends so much on the administrative form.

Whatever the case, university reform must allow for administratice and regional peculiarities. To put this into plain language, the integrated forms of comprehensive university must be allowed to operate alongside the cooperative form.

It will always prove possible to introduce a more simplified system allowing students to switch branches and continue their studies. A student planning to take a course of engineering under the Y Model can complete his basic studies at a conventional university or what is today an advanced vocational college.

The theoretical branch of studies will be the responsibility of universities while the practical side will be taught at vocational colleges. A student of electrical engineering for instance will complete his basic studies at a vocational college and then either choose to continue practical work at the same institute or switch without difficulty to a university to concentrate on theory. His final qualifications will be worth the same in each case.

The same is true for student teachers. Teachers are differentiated by grades referring not to the type of school they are allowed to teach at but to the age of the schoolchildren they can teach.

Teachers are divided for this purpose into primary-grade (P teachers), secondary stage I and secondary stage II (S I and S II teachers). Every teacher is also expected to gain some experience in teaching schoolchildren belonging to an adjacent grade.

As far as study is concerned, a student at one of today's colleges of education can attend courses training him as a P and S I teacher and in some cases as an S II teacher.

If the student intends to become an S I and S II teacher, he takes the S I courses at a college of education and the S II course at a university.

As education courses are to be divided into various "building-block" elements of educational science, the teaching of a particular subject, training in a particular subject and practical experience, it will be possible to judge what standard the student has attained in the past.

If this method is adopted, there will be no difficulty either in switching from a university after qualifying as an S II teacher and going to a college of education to take the S I courses.

Comprehensive universities could organise the final examinations and qualifications thereby attained in such a way as to end the usual emphasis on status and prestige. A standardised system of examinations at all institutes of further education would be appropriate. This does not however mean that courses are to be standardised or made the same length.

Different educational aims demand different-length courses. But comprehensive universities will ensure that courses of study are arranged in such a way that it will always be possible to achieve higher qualifications.

It is for instance senseless to make P teachers take the S II courses for four years in order to achieve a semblance of equality. This would only mean that fewer students would be willing to take a course in education.

Students cannot be condemned for wanting to obtain their qualifications as quickly as possible. This is why many of them take the P teacher course despite the difficulties involved.

Some sixty per cent of education students must become primary-grade teachers if requirements are to be met. Of the 1,104 students graduating from colleges of education in Baden-Württemberg in 1969 a total of 629 went to primary schools. In 1970 only 207 of the 552 graduates took the same step and this figure dropped in 1971 to 171 of the 772 graduates.

This trend would only be encouraged if all education courses were to be made the same length. P teachers need more educational skill than S I and S II teachers and this can only be obtained through practice.

Teachers of all three categories have an equally valuable function. Unequal pay is unjust but so is equal starting pay after different-length study and suggested an thought they could not end this discrepancy between identical function and different- length study and suggested an identical period of study.

But there is a more sensible way out of this dilemma. P teachers starting work one year before S I and S II teachers could begin at a lower salary than their colleagues. The differences in wage rates can be ended after the S I and S II teachers have caught up.

Comprehensive universities should help overcome unjust hierarchical structures without eliminating justifiable differences. The structure of the education system is not just a relic of the old class State: It often has a genuine function which must not be endangered by all talk of equality. But the chance separation of institutes of further education and the courses they offer must be overcome. Entry into the comprehensive university sector also poses a tricky problem. If the advanced school-leaving certificate is made a general condition of entry, as would be desirable from the point of view of equality, an effective barrier would have been raised against those adults who wish to take courses of further education

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■ OUR WORLD

Woman heads first comprehensive university in Kassel

WELT am SONNTAG

Dr Vera Rüdiger, a senior SPD member of the Hesse provincial assembly, has become the first head of the Federal Republic's first *Gesamthochschule* (a comprehensive university). In Kassel the attractive 37-year-old woman has taken up a position that has in the past been reserved for men.

She had to take a considerable amount of time to make up her mind to accept the job because of various difficulties. Just look at the case of the Free University in West Berlin for instance. Was she anxious? Not entirely. She had to weigh up if there were chances of cooperation between lecturers, students and professors, for she was convinced that this cooperation was essential for her new job.

The fact that she is an attractive, sensitive woman had nothing to do with her considerations. (She is a teacher's daughter and has herself taught before taking up politics.) She says that her whole political and professional life has been a battle against men who have tried to ensconce her in a phony, reactionary, feminine role.

There are masses of stories about her. After she had made her first political speech she not only was offered grudging respect from the intellectuals but also from her friends and acquaintances.

One of the audience, a member of the old school, a onetime minister, tells how after the first speech he approached one of Vera's friends and with visible pleasure said: "Vera has made a truly startling speech, but today she is wearing a dress that is so magnificent that it makes concentrating difficult." Red with embarrassment Vera commented: "Old friend you are trying to manipulate me again."

Now she has become a little more cunning. She says; "I try to sidestep these things." When she is engaged in the rough and tumble of politics she tries to dispel with hard words the phony ideas of "a beautiful, tender woman." When asked if she would miss the rough and tumble of political-parliamentary life she answers: "Yes, I would very much miss the tit for tat of politics," I pretended to be surprised. She continued: "Yes the give and take of politics is an intellectual exercise."

Vera Rüdiger has always understood her political career in these terms. Her father lost his job in 1933 for political reasons and one of her older brothers lost his life aged 19 as a fighter pilot. Prompted by past experiences she has never hesitated as to which political direction she would take.

She was never awkward and her political opponents would agree on this score. And she has never flinched in taking up the cudgels with the Young Socialists.

She has never felt it necessary to wear jeans and a darned pullover to prove her identity. "I like my own four walls," she comments. So when she takes up her new job she will pass in Kassel to and fro each day from her smart appartment in Giessen.

It is hoped that in Kassel a university



Vera Rüdiger (Photo: dpa)

will be established to cater for 1,000 students studying anything from teacher training to agriculture. Dr Rüdiger maintains that the diversity will be challenging.

Joachim Neander

(Welt am Sonntag, 15 October 1972)

Comprehensive university

Continued from page 13

without being in possession of the advanced certificate.

Academies of art have always set different entry conditions to the other institutes of further education. Proof of artistic talent is all that is required. The advanced certificate of education is only demanded when the student plans to become an art teacher.

As long as schoolchildren with artistic talents are subject to so many disadvantages in our schools, it would be unjust to demand that future art students should possess the advanced certificate of education.

Discussions about comprehensive universities have so far shown that we must beware of idealist solutions that do not turn out to be genuine solutions at all on closer examination.

The existing state of affairs must be improved. The relics of the old class system must be eliminated so as to give all students equality of opportunity. A discriminating system of further education is needed to prepare students for the complicated and quickly-changing working world.

If this is all achieved our education system will have been genuinely improved without spending millions of Marks upon it. Real improvements can only be expected from a thorough reform of studies leading to the comprehensive university.

Frank Armbruster

(Deutsche Zeitung, 13 October 1972)

Woman attorney declares war on Frankfurt's underworld

Frankfurter Rundschau

A woman has declared war on the underworld in Frankfurt and the Rhine-Main area. Adelheid Sahl, the first woman public prosecutor in Hesse appointed to deal with serious crime said: "I have reopened a few old accounts in the vincinity of Frankfurt station, where so much crime originates. I would very much like to settle a few of these accounts."

The opening of her special department to deal with serious crime has cast a cloud over the horizon of many a forger, arms smuggler and trafficker in drugs.

Frankfurt law courts did not expect to see Adelheid Sahl again when she left thirty months ago to take up a post as personal assistant in the office of the Hesse Justice Minister Karl Hemfler. But she has re-appeared as the head of Department 13 which with the aid of three other public prosecutors has fished in the troubled waters of Frankfurt's underworld.

Adelheid Sahl had the idea for the special branch to deal with serious crime when she was dealing with her first case in the spring. When thirty months ago hundreds of arms were smuggled into the country concealed in construction machinery the results of the investigations caused the Justice Ministry to turn away from the more traditional methods of dealing with crime. Clues led to an international gang that planned its operation at an executive desk just as senior management deals with industrial or commercial problems. If it is a question of putting on the black market a few pistols or some hashish a plane is chartered. Ladies go off on bus tours sitting on top of baggage full of weapons that are exchanged on the return trip for drugs.

Heinz Groh, deputy head of the public prosecutor's office said quite clearly that it was essential to fight specialists with specialist skills and so the idea of setting up a special crime squad to deal with crime around Frankfurt's central station was born. Since 1 October 37-year-old Adelheid Sahl has been directing the new department.

Above all things Adelheid Sahl intends to work very closely with the police. She said: "If we work in close cooperation with the police things move quicker."

She hopes to speed up the processes of the law so that there is less delay between crimes committed and sentencing. She commented: "If we can bring a case before the courts within three months we shall have achieved a great deal towards getting a fair sentence – witnesses can remember things without difficulty and the whole position of the investigation is still fresh."

It will be necessary to bring in other public prosecutors in order to do the job properly, and Adelheid Sahl hopes to be able to introduce greater flexibility. She said: "When cases come up dealing with the activities of a well organised band public prosecutors should drop their more routine work and give a hand." She added: "We don't want to deal only with crimes involving 15-Mark thefts but also be able to bring the real guilty ones before the courts."

By the real guilty ones Adelheid Sahl means the brains behind the criminals, those who sit in an office wearing a white collar and a tie and direct organised crime. With these people there is no question of offering them therapy and re-training, but it is a question of dealing with people who have to make atonement for their wrongdoings. Adelheid Sahl said: "My prosecutions will be tough. Very tough."

Bosses of gangs of criminals in this country may smile when they see the attractive lady public prosecutor but she will soon wipe the smile off their faces if they really expect her charm to make her prosecutions milder.

Recently in a court case Adelheid Sahl heard one accused say: "Really you are quite nice looking but when you stand up there reading out the list of charges it gives me the creeps."

Norbert Leppert

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 10 October 1972)

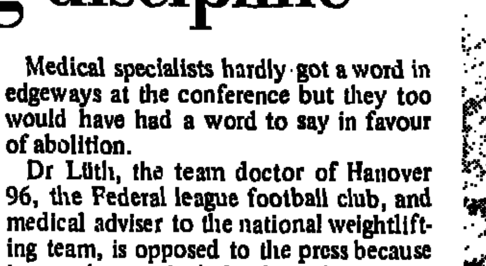
Woman shoppers take their time

Housewifes in this country generally spend an average of an hour a day shopping, while working women make do with half an hour. But working women are shrewder purchasers and have a better idea of what they are buying, according to a retail-trade survey into shopping habits. Men, too, are said to know a bargain when they see it, but they are quicker to produce their wallet than women.

(Nordwest Zeitung, 14 October 1972)

■ SPORT

Press abolished from weightlifting discipline



The three disciplines in international weightlifting, called in German, incidentally, the Olympic "triathlon," have been reduced to two. At the Munich conference of the International Weightlifting Federation the press has been abolished, leaving only the jerk and the snatch.

This decision was reached by a vote of 33:13 and was made in view of a development attributable to the enormous progress that has been achieved in this heavyweight among sporting disciplines.

The regulations stipulated that in the press the weights were only to be lifted from chest-level by arm and chest power at a signal by the senior judge.

But the regulations were not detailed enough. Weightlifters tended to make use of impermissible aids such as a slight swing of the knees and a certain back position.

Adjudicators tolerated this bending of the rules and rendered the discipline dubious. In the long run honest weightlifters who pressed fairly were put at a disadvantage. They were unable to equal the performances of their rivals.

Russia, America, Poland and both German States were agreed on the need to abolish the press. The only objections openly raised to the change were made by the Swedes, who favoured its retention. They have every reason for so doing. In the middleweight category Hans Bettembourg and Bo Johansson rank among the world's best lifters alongside David Rigert of the Soviet Union.

The official explanation given for the abolition of the press was that improved performances have tended to make it impossible to draw much of a distinction between the press and the jerk.

Medical specialists hardly got a word in edgeways at the conference but they too would have had a word to say in favour of abolition.

Dr Lüth, the team doctor of Hanover 96, the Federal league football club, and medical adviser to the national weightlifting team, is opposed to the press because it can be particularly damaging to the backbone, especially that of youngsters.

Besides, there is a risk of weightlifters fainting while holding the weights at chest-level. The strain is so intense that they could well choke their jugular vein and cut back the flow of blood to the brain for too long.

Tamas Ajan, a member of the international federation's executive and president of the Hungarian association, lamented the development that led to this decision earlier this year at the European championships, held in Constanta, Rumania.

"Our sport," he said, "is the poorer. The problem ought to have been solved by giving adjudicators more detailed instructions and better training."

Otto Schumann, president of the Federal Republic association, reckons that concentration on the jerk and snatch will lead to even more explosive developments by way of improved performances.

"Now that the press has been abolished," he says, "weightlifters will have more time to concentrate on training for the two dynamic disciplines in our sport."

Weightlifting statisticians will have to accustom themselves to new names and new lists and best performances at both national and international levels.

Comparison of the Munich Olympic results with and without the press reveals that in a number of cases the outcome would have been entirely different.

In the flyweight class, for instance, the gold medallist in the press, snatch and jerk was Zygmunt Smalcerz of Poland with 337.5 kilogrammes.

Had the new rule applied and only the jerk and snatch been evaluated the winner would have been Gyi Aung of Burma with 225 kilos. But as the Burmese is a poor presser he only came fifth in the threefold discipline.

In seven out of nine weight categories the gold medal would have been retained by the present holder. Yet in the heavyweight class bronze medallist Stefan Grützner of the GDR would have ousted gold medallist Jan Talts of the Soviet Union by virtue of his lighter bodyweight and a lift of 370 kilogrammes.

In all classes, though, there would have been considerable changes from the runner-up downwards.

Taking, on the other hand, the super heavyweight category (weightlifters of over 110 kilogrammes, or 16 st. 8 lb), Vassili Alexeyev of the Soviet Union would still unquestionably lead the field.

His 405 kilogrammes in the two remaining disciplines would have retained him a clear lead over Rudolf Mang of this country, who incidentally was a fair press-man. Alexeyev weights over 160 kilogrammes (22 stone).

"In the near future Mang will do considerably better in the snatch, his best discipline, and in the jerk too," Otto Schumann says of this country's most successful weightlifter.

Weightlifters in this country immediately adopted the change. Indeed, only one protest has been submitted to the association – and not even from a top-flight lifter or a Federal league club. The protest was lodged by a Karlsruhe club that is in the North Baden regional league.

Claus Beissner

(Die Zeit, 20 October 1972)

Non-sporting citizens

Only 34 per cent of people in this country actively engage in sporting activities, according to Interior Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Opening the International Sports Articles, Camping and Garden Furniture Fair in Cologne, Genscher stated that a survey conducted by his Ministry had further revealed that 82 per cent of the people questioned were of the opinion that too little was done to encourage sport at school. A majority of the general public are also of the opinion that too little is done for mass sport and too much for top-flight sport and football.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 16 October 1972)

Sports stamps

The Sports Aid Foundation will benefit from the proceeds next year of further issues of commemorative postage stamps. Following the appointment of Lauritz Lauritzen as Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in succession to Georg Leber differences arose between representatives of charitable organisations and the foundation responsible for administering the proceeds of charity issues for young people. Herr Leber has now reached agreement with his successor that sporting commemoratives will definitely be issued next year.

(Die Welt, 19 October 1972)

Skaters have worked hard all summer

Frankfurter Allgemeine

"The team is well prepared, most ambitious and works extremely hard," coach Herbert Hoefl of the national speed skating team noted in connection with the change-over from summer training to the first trials of the real thing at Innzell rink.

Hoefl does not feel that the major triumphs of Sapporo will be repeated this winter, though. "With an average age of barely over twenty our team is the youngest of any country in the world." he says. "They will not really hit peak for another four years, perhaps in time for the next Olympics."

Hans Lichtenstern of Munich and Horst Freese of Hamburg, the oldest member of the team at 28, are busy preparing for fresh competitions. Alongside Monika Pflug of Munich, the Olympic gold medallist at Sapporo, the 38.7-second sprinter from Hamburg stands a good chance of reaching the international top, the world's fastest skaters all having turned professional.

1,000-metre Olympic victor and sprint world champion Monika Pflug will be unlikely to set up new records in the near future. She is still recovering from the effects of a traffic accident sustained last spring.

After finishing her apprenticeship as a bookbinder Monika came to Innzell in June for the entire summer in order to get down to optimum summer training.

"She has been given leave of absence by her Munich employer until March," Hoefl explained, "but would do well to work half-days in Innzell in order not to run into trouble with the amateur code."

Eighteen-year-old Monika Pflug was not alone in putting in the toughest summer's training the national team has ever gone through. Since the beginning of August the speed-skaters have been training up to four hours a day – twice as much as in past years.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 October 1972)



(Photo: Conti-Press)

Grass skiing

Contented Allgäu cows could hardly believe their eyes. A man on skis shot down the grass-green slopes of the South-West German Alps and ground to a halt right in front of them with a sound reminiscent of Venetian blinds being let down in a hurry.

The skier, a seventy-year-old retired post office worker from Füssen, is a man with an unusual mission. He tours the countryside to find new slopes for summer skiing, the number of skiers who are keen on grass practice during the summer months being steadily on the increase.

Lovers of winter sport had dreamt of somehow skiing in summer for years and any number of experiments had been conducted. Then the first summer skis made their appearance on the market.

They boast wheels, cylindrical rollers, rounded edges and nylon runners. The Hesse state skiing association held its first grass ski race four years ago. Eighty competitors turned up.

This year dozens of races and slalom competitions were held all over the country. Seven hundred pairs of grass roller skis have been sold, and they are anything but inexpensive, costing between 117 and 174 Marks.

It remains to be seen whether grass skiing will ever become the mass sport its inventors hope and most of the 200-odd groups of enthusiasts all over the country would like.

Not only must the slope be even and freshly mown; stout knee boots and durable clothing are also called for. Skiers who come a cropper on grass slopes almost invariably suffer from scrapes and cuts of some kind or another.

In Bruck, Bavaria, where one of this season's grass ski competitions was recently held, 29-year-old skiing instructor Wilhelm Bruhner from Baldham, near Munich, caught his left thumb on a slalom marker and tore the cartilage.

"It is still great fun," he commented, mentioning by way of an afterthought an incidental benefit. "In an hour of grass skiing not long ago," he explained, "I lost two kilos in weight."

The Federal Republic Skiing Association has given the grass skiers a year's grace and will be deciding at the beginning of next year whether or not to introduce grass skiing as a separate discipline and sub-grouping within its ranks.

Falkenberg skiing club, Bavaria, has also discovered, as one member enthused, delightful sidelines that make grass skiing every bit as enjoyable as the real thing.

The club recently held a night race illuminated by burning torches. The conclusion was celebrated around a large barrel of beer.

Egon F. Freiheit

(Welt am Sonntag, 8 October 1972)